

Hafa Adai!

COTA fleet activated to support quarantine efforts. **PAGE 3**
Man arrested for allegedly making terroristic threats. **PAGE 6**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 61

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY MARCH 27, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

More people in quarantine

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fifty-seven more individuals who arrived on Saipan from off-island yesterday were added to the 14-day mandatory quarantine at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, according to a source inside the facility.

The source told *Saipan Tribune* that there are now 84 people in quarantine, but there is no indication how many of them tourists or returning residents. There is still no confirmed novel coronavirus case in the CNMI and these people in quarantine are considered

See QUARANTINE on Page 4

POSITIVE NEWS AMID PANDEMIC 'Goods, services moving well'

» **FEMA build and repair homes plans are in effect**

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's not all doom-and-gloom these days. Despite the limited hours of many businesses in the CNMI, goods and

services continue to flow efficiently into the CNMI community. Garbage is still regularly picked up as scheduled. And there is no immediate danger of running out of toilet paper.

According to CTSI Logistics Saipan general manager Joven Cruz, they are opera-

See GOODS on Page 4

Kilili gets funding for CNMI added to Senate bill

» **Unemployment benefits for laid-off workers, one-time tax rebate, school funding**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A third coronavirus relief bill,



Sablan

passed by the U.S. Senate last night, now includes funding for state and territory governments to meet the costs of the coronavirus, Delegate Grego-

See KILILI on Page 4



Social distancing is the new way to care

To encourage its customers to comply with the CNMI government's directive about social distancing, the Joeten store in Garapan has placed markers on the floor as a guide on how far each person should be while lining up at the cashier.

KRIZEL TUAZON

From using tape markers as visual guides to limiting the number of people inside their premises, many businesses and agencies on Saipan that deal with the public are coming up with ingenious ways on how to implement social distancing within their premises.

First Hawaiian Bank in

Oleai is implementing a new arrangement. To be assisted for services, FHB customers are required to line up before being called inside the building. Also, as customers line up inside the bank, there are boundaries made up of red lines so that customers may keep their

See SOCIAL on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Businesses say it's not clear that reopening will be an option in a few weeks.

PAGE 13



NATION

New York City is emerging as the United States' biggest coronavirus hot spot.

PAGE 14



ASIA

China lifts the last of the controls that confined tens of millions of people to their homes in Wuhan.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

UPDATE

WIC
POP UP
CLINIC

We are only doing remote services
so please call us at 664-4084.

WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding guidance to more than 3,000 moms and children in the CNMI. If you are pregnant, a caregiver, or a mom with children under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family.



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."



**Your dependable
money source**



**Wondering if your tax
rebate or refund will be
paid on time this year?**

**Need
your
cash
now?**

**Express Financial can lend you up to
70% of your verified tax rebate NOW.**

NO CREDIT HISTORY NECESSARY.

As long as you have a verifiable source of income with the ability to make the payments Express Financial will lend against your tax returns.

Perhaps it's not a tax refund loan you are looking for; Express Financial has plenty of cash and makes loans for all your financial needs with the fastest services on island. Express Financial can get you the cash you want for your summer fix-up projects or taking that long awaited family vacation. Come in to see us TODAY or give us a call and we can take your application right over the phone. Our job is to help you succeed financially.

EXPRESS FINANCIAL

is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.

**Helping you succeed financially is our top priority.
In most cases we can get the cash in your hands
the same day we receive your application.**

Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply

- OPTION 1** Call us direct at **670 235-6032** AND OUR FRIENDLY LOCAL STAFF WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR APPLICATION OVER THE PHONE.
- OPTION 2** Fill out the attached application and fax to **670-235-6040** and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.
- OPTION 3** Fill out the attached application, scan and email to **cccar6985users@carfinancial.com** and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.

QUICK APPLICATION

PRIMARY APPLICANT

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____
 Employer: _____
 Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
 Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____

SECONDARY APPLICANT

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____
 Employer: _____
 Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
 Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____
 Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

Town House Shopping Center

Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (across Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Tel. (670) 235-6032 | P.O. Box 504084, Saipan MP 96950

Local

Subpoenas for personnel records of three OPA investigators stayed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
 ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday the U.S. government's motion to suspend the execution of two subpoenas issued by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, until such time that the court has ruled on the U.S. government's motion to quash the subpoenas.

In the U.S. government's motion to quash filed last Wednesday, assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley said both subpoenas seek personnel records.

The first is addressed to the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division and seeks the personnel records of Office of the Public Auditor criminal investigator Travis Hurst, O'Malley said. The second is addressed to the Of-

fice of the Public Auditor and seeks the personnel records of Hurst, Edward R. Cabrera, and Juan Santos.

He disclosed that Travis, Cabrera, and Santos are criminal investigators for OPA, who participated in the investigation of this case and may testify as witnesses for the U.S. government.



Manglona

Before joining OPA, Hurst worked briefly for the CNMI Attorney General Investigation Division.

O'Malley said the two subpoenas were served last March 19 and the return date for both was yesterday, March 26, although no trial date is currently set.

O'Malley said OPA Investigation Division participated in the investigation leading to the filing of the criminal case.

In the U.S. government's motion to stay filed yesterday, O'Malley asked the court to stay the execution of the two subpoenas pending resolution of the government's motion to quash.

O'Malley said the lawyers for the Ataligs have indicated that they do not oppose a temporary stay.

The prosecutor said the motion to stay should also be granted because there will be no prejudice to the Ataligs.

At present, O'Malley said, there is no date set for trial, and that, due to circumstances relating to the coronavirus pandemic, it is unlikely that the trial will be held anytime soon. "Therefore, there is ample time to fully litigate the issue of the subpoenas," he pointed out.

The prosecutor argued that the motion to stay should be granted as there would be prejudice to the government's witnesses.

He said the information sought by the subpoena relates to employee personnel records, disclosure of which may raise privacy issues or reveal information protected by law or confidentiality agreements.

O'Malley said the subpoenas were issued to CNMI agencies and that it was (and still is) unclear whether those agencies had the ability to file a motion without first being admitted to the District Court. He said efforts to obtain the necessary documentation for admission of the OPA attorney have been frustrated by the coronavirus-related shutdowns.

O'Malley said the subpoenas provided an extremely short timeframe—less than one week—in which to respond or to file a motion to quash.

O'Malley said in this case, the U.S. government has an interest in preventing defendants from harassing its witnesses. He said forcing OPA and OAG to comply with this overly-broad subpoena will serve no legitimate purpose.

He said the defendants' subpoena seeks private information protected by Commonwealth law, the relevant portions of which have been or will be disclosed to the government, and then exchanged during the ordinary course of discovery.

"The subpoena is unreasonable and oppressive and must be quashed," the prosecutor said.

O'Malley said if the court determines the subpoenas are enforceable, the government requests that the court review the records to ascertain what portion, if any, should be disclosed to defendants and to protect the remainder of the confidential or private information.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Judiciary cancels
2020 summer pre-law
program**

The Judiciary announced yesterday that it is canceling its 2020 summer pre-law program in view of the coronavirus pandemic. Future programs will be announced. (PR)

**Immediate USDA
measures to help rural
residents, businesses,
communities**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses,

and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America.

Read the full announcement (https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions.pdf) to learn more about the opportunities USDA Rural Development is implementing to provide immediate relief to our customers, partners, and stakeholders. (PR)

COTA fleet activated to support quarantine efforts

With the 14-day mandatory quarantine set for people entering the CNMI, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's entire fleet has been activated to safely transport individuals coming from off-island to Kanoa Resort, the designated quarantine facility.

"Currently, we are availing [of] COTA's entire fleet to fulfill our vital ESF-1 Function in the COVID-19 Task Force. That is two mini-buses and eight passenger vans," Joe Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune*. He is the COTA Operations and Mobility coordinator.

COTA gets its passenger counts daily, straight from the Division of Customs, and then adjusts its fleet and manpower to ensure safe and expedient transport to the Quarantine Zone.

"COTA understands that this is a difficult but necessary situation for all these passengers to be put in," Pangelinan added. "We ensure that our vehicles are staged and ready for their luggage's to be loaded as quickly as possible and for them to immediately board and be transported to the Quarantine Zone well ahead of time. We feel this will only make their transition an easier one as they play their role in keeping the CNMI COVID-19 free."

Safety

The safety of all passengers and personnel is of utmost importance, and Pangelinan assures that COTA has taken every precaution, through planning and preparation, to ensure this every time COTA

is activated to carry out its role in the COVID-19 Task Force.

"We have provided all of our personnel protective eye-wear and masks, and have been given essential [personal protective equipment] such as gloves and protective suits from FEMA/Homeland Security that our personnel wear at all times during COVID-19 Operations," he said.

"We have also (internally) sectioned off our driver's cabin from the rest of the vehicle, with a thick plastic; creating one more layer of protection for our drivers," Pangelinan added.

For passenger's safety, all of COTA's staff are Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity-certified, and are equipped to handle any elderly, special needs, or non-ambulatory

wheelchair rider(s) at all times.

"Once on our vehicles, we ensure they have their seatbelts on; and for the health of all passengers, we have all of our windows open where air can freely flow within the passenger cabin," he said.

Strength in partnership

"We cannot state this enough, COTA is not alone in this endeavor," Pangelinan said, adding that COTA works with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Division of Customs, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth Health Care Corp., CNMI Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Fire and Emergency

Medical Services, among others, to ensure that both the passengers and drivers are "as safe as they can be, every step of the way."

According to Pangelinan, the CPA Ports Police officers ensures that COTA's operations are always protected in any situation that may occur when loading passengers at the airport.

"We have a DFEMS representative in each of our vehicles that is there to inform the passengers of everything that is happening, and that is about to happen and, if any health issue should occur during transport, they would be the first responders to make sure that passenger is okay," he added.

DPS also assists, escorting COTA from each staging point, ensuring the convoys are always safe, and allowing

COTA to get to the Quarantine Zone as quickly as possible.

"Once we get to the Quarantine Zone, DPH and CHCC staff is there to transfer all passengers safely and smoothly into the mandated 14-day period, also assuring the safety of the people of the CNMI by being ready and able to identify any case or symptom if they arise."

Team effort

Alfreda P. Camacho, the special assistant for Public Transportation, describes the whole process as a "true team effort," with the overarching mission to protect the people of the CNMI.

"With all the hard work from every single agency involved, we will continue carrying out that mission every day," said Camacho. *(Iva Maurin)*

IPI accuses recycling firm of conspiring to steal copper wires, others needed for casino project

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is suing a recycling company in Tanapag and its co-owners for allegedly conspiring to steal and sell construction materials from IPI's warehouses.

IPI, through counsel Robert J. O'Connor Jr., is suing FSM Recycling Corp., Eric Cruz, Ricky Reyes, a certain Cha, and 15 unnamed co-defendants, for conversion.

O'Connor said that Cruz and

Cha are co-owners and co-managers of FSM Recycling Corp.

IPI asked the Superior Court to hold the defendants liable to pay more than \$50,000 in punitive damages and other damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from the defendants.

According to O'Connor in the complaint filed early this week, Reyes broke into one

or more of IPI's warehouses in Tanapag in February 2020 and cut the padlock on at least one of the containers stored there.

O'Connor said Reyes stole construction materials, including copper fixtures and spools of copper wire, from the container and then put a new padlock on the container to cover up the break-in.

Reyes then allegedly brought the stolen items to FSM Recycling Corp.

On March 20, 2020, an IPI agent went to FSM Recycling Corp. and met with Cha and Cruz, who denied ever receiving items stolen from IPI.

O'Connor said Cha and Cruz refused to let the IPI agent inspect the company's storage space. However, the lawyer said, mere minutes after the meeting, two pickup trucks left the recycling company's premises and Cha was riding one of them. He said at least one of those trucks had its back covered.

O'Connor said those trucks traveled south together at a speed much higher than the speed limit, and eventually entered a family compound. He said after the trucks went inside the compound, the compound's gate was locked, denying access to anyone who wished to inspect the cargo in the trucks.

As of the time this complaint is filed, O'Connor said, the items stolen from IPI have not been returned. He said the

items stolen are essential to the construction of IPI's casino and resort project in Garapan.

"Not being able to use the items has caused and will continue to cause delay in the construction of that project, and results in monetary loss to IPI," O'Connor said.

The lawyer said the defendants have been engaging in this type of stealing and fencing for a while and their misconduct is not limited to just one incident. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*

a boutique for
Tween Girls
ages 8-12

Dresses, Tees, skirts, jeans,
shorts, and Accessories!

New Store Hours
Stay Safe CNMI



Girl Talk

FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Swirls
Sun - Sat 10am to 1pm (7 days a week)
TEL. 233-8050

Like us on Facebook

Toys & Clothes
for children
ages 0 to 10

New Store Hours
Stay Safe CNMI



Lollipop's

BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Monday - Saturday: 9am - 1pm
Sunday: 10am - 1pm
TEL. 234-8040

Like us on Facebook



PHI Pharmacy



Diabetes Shoppe

GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY

INVENTORY SALE

MARCH 09-31, 2020

25 OFF
ALL OTC ITEMS

35% OFF
SUPPLEMENTS, VITAMINS AND SPORTS NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS

50% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS

OPEN EVERYDAY OF THE YEAR, PROVIDING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION AND HEALTHCARE ESSENTIALS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI FOR OVER 23 YEARS.

Kagman Branch
Tel. (670) 256-0131
Fax (670) 256-0134
Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm
Sat: 8am - 4pm
Sun: CLOSED

Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center)
Tel. (670) 323-5000/01
235-6170/74
Fax (670) 235-6180
Mon-Fri: 8am - 6pm
Sat-Sun: 8am - 4pm

Visit us on www.facebook.com/phiparmacy
PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!

KILILI

From Page 1

rio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said. The delegate has made direct payments to local governments one of his top priorities for responding to the economic impact of the virus.

SOCIAL

From Page 1

distance from one another.

Cafe Mangosix is mostly taking phone orders. Customers may still order inside the café but are required to wait outside for their orders. The café also has lines as boundaries to enable customers to keep a safe distance from one another.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. payment center has provided a tent for customers to wait to be called inside for services. There is a limit to the number of customers allowed to enter the building.

Ana (last name withheld by request), 32, of Chalan Kanoa, said it is great that businesses are practicing social distancing. She, however, said it becomes hectic and crowded in stores and some businesses during the 8am-1pm hours when businesses are allowed to operate. “It is defeating the purpose of this whole social distancing” she added.

Himawari Hotel & Restaurant in Garapan yesterday taped boundary lines along its counters as a way for customers to practice social distancing.

Sablan led a letter from all insular area delegates making that point, again, on Wednesday; and funding was added, a change from the original legislation, introduced by Republican Leader Mitch McConnell last Thursday. The Commonwealth and other insular governments receive about \$700 per capita in the

Like other restaurants on island, Himawari Hotel is only doing take-out. A staff said the boundary lines are 6 feet apart and were installed when they noticed customers lining up in close proximity to one another.

The Cha Café and Bistro in Garapan has implemented social distancing measures as well. The boundary lines were taped down the same day the restaurant announced its new store hours, which are 6am to 1pm.

A staff at the Joeten store Garapan said they affixed their boundary lines on their floor sometime last week. They did so after noticing that a lot of their customers were not observing social distancing.

Joeten Susupe has put up a sign at each cashier line that reads, “For your safety, please stand behind the blue line.” Customers are required to follow these rules. An employee of Joeten said every time a customer is done being assisted, they must wipe down and sanitize their counters. Staff also go around sanitizing refrigerator handles every two hours. They have also provided a hand sanitizer in front of the entrance and exit door.

The practice is also being done

current bill. The U.S. average is about \$460.

The new Senate bill increases funding for insular schools from \$100 million to as much as \$153.75 million, another priority for Sablan. “Just like the school money we put in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, during my first

at Joeten Garapan’s sister store, Joeten Superstore in San Jose, where the boundary lines are 6 feet apart. A staff said they made the social distancing measures last March 24.

A frequent shopper appreciated this, saying it will help keep customers safe from the coronavirus “I think it’s a good idea, even though we don’t have any cases here, but there’s a good chance we do have cases here and anything we can do to prevent the spread is very, very important,” the customer said.

Triple J Payless Superfresh & Truckload Store manager Morgan Carrico said their store has used their tile flooring to measure their “6 feet rule” and has applied it at the start of their new business hours. It was crucial to put up the boundary lines as soon as possible due to the many customers that come in around 10am-1pm, he added.

A staff of Friendly Market in San Jose admitted they have yet to install boundary lines. He said they are planning to do so yesterday when the clock strikes 1pm, which is the close of store hours. They said the past couple of days, the store’s busiest hours were between 10am and 1pm. *(Kate Alipio and Krizel Tuazon)*

term in Congress, this money will keep [Public School System] teachers and staff employed and make sure our children continue their education,” he said.

Sablan also fought for direct payments to workers, laid-off as Marianas businesses close because of the coronavirus. The Senate bill gives these unemployed workers in the Marianas a benefit equal to the national average unemployment compensation benefit (about \$360 a week), plus an additional federal supplement of \$600 per week. The benefit is available for up to 39 weeks, but not beyond the end of 2020. The Commonwealth government will administer the payments with 100% federal funding.

There is also a one-time tax rebate to put money in consumers’ pockets and revive the economy. Individual taxpayers, nationwide, including in the Marianas, will receive up to \$1,200 and joint filers up to \$2,400, with an additional \$500 per child. The payments are reduced beyond certain high-income limits. As with the unemployment benefit, the federal government will cover the full cost, another point Sablan insisted on throughout the negotiations.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, additionally provides loans for small businesses and loan forgiveness for those that retain employees

during the coronavirus crisis. More than \$150 billion is injected into the health care system for equipment, supplies, and facilities for patients with coronavirus and for research into treatments. And the Marianas will share another \$200 million in food assistance with Puerto Rico and American Samoa. Last week’s Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Public Law 116-127, awarded the three insular areas \$100 million.

“This is all good news for the people of the Marianas,” Sablan said. He returned to Washington last week ahead of schedule to better represent the Marianas, as fast-moving decisions were being made in what is the largest spending bill in U.S. history.

“I urge everyone at home to follow all the guidelines to stay healthy and keep the Marianas free of coronavirus. If we stay healthy and with the financial assistance in today’s bill, our economy will eventually revive, and our lives return to normal,” he said.

The CARES Act, H.R. 748, is scheduled for a vote in the House of Representatives Friday morning (Saturday in the CNMI). President Donald J. Trump has said he will sign the bill.

Additional legislation to guide the United States through the coronavirus crisis is already under discussion. *(PR)*

QUARANTINE

From Page 1

“persons under monitoring.”

■■■

Eight more people in Guam tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the U.S. territory’s total to 45 positive cases.

According to a Joint Information Center bulletin last night, it said the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 38 individuals yesterday, March 26, 2020, and that eight tested positive and 30 tested negative.

So far, a total of 308 tests have been performed in Guam from March 12, 2020, through March 26, 2020. To date, a total of 45 cases have tested positive and 263 cases have tested negative, with one death. All 44 remaining cases are in isolation.

■■■

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said that there were actually a total of 36 individuals who were in quarantine last March 25. There was no immediate clarification about the differing numbers as the newspaper went to print.

“No one at Kanoa Resort has displayed any symptoms, therefore no

test would need to be conducted,” said Bautista. He also added that the COVID-19 Task Force will continue to monitor all travelers as well as residents.

Bautista noted that, similar to Hawaii and most of the United States, general testing is not available. The Guam Public Health laboratory has been the designated testing facility for the U.S. Pacific Island and all specimens in the CNMI have to be sent to Guam for testing. But Bautista said that CHCC will soon be able to conduct testing on-island.

“The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. are currently upgrading CNMI hospital capacity through federal assistance under this emergency. This process in procuring necessary medical equipment has been going smoothly,” he said.

If any of the individuals in quarantine exhibit symptoms, CHCC would then obtain their specimen and send it to Guam for testing.

“Everyone, from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, to our first responders, are taking this threat seriously and treating the CNMI as if the virus is here. Torres and Muña will not wait for a confirmed case to push forward with additional protective measures,”

said Bautista.

Additionally, the governor’s COVID-19 Task Force has initiated mission assignments that are focused on stopping the spread through an aggressive public information and social media campaign to mandatory quarantine.

Guam now has a total of 37 confirmed COVID-19 cases and one death.

In the latest case, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 37 individuals for COVID-19 last March 25. Out of that number, five tested positive and 32 tested negative.

From March 12 to 25, a total of 270 tests were performed in Guam. A total of 233 tested negative. Of the 36 remaining cases, they are currently in isolation.

The World Health Organization has seen a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Pacific. As of yesterday, March 26, there are 82 COVID-19 cases in the Pacific, across five countries and territories, according to Dr. Corinne Capuano, Pacific Technical Support director and WHO representative to the South Pacific.

Of those five countries, there are 25 confirmed cases in French Polynesia, 37 confirmed cases and one death in Guam, five confirmed cases in Fiji, 14 confirmed cases in New Caledonia, and one confirmed case in Papua New Guinea.

Capuano stated that most of the governments have already established/activated a National Task Force and have declared a state of emergency after identifying confirmed cases.

GOODS

From Page 1

tional despite the crisis. “As of now, we get 50 containers that arrive every other week and I know other shipping companies on island like APL, Matson, and Kiyo have containers that arrive every week. ...As long as there is a demand from companies on island, CTSI will provide a stable service,” he added.

CTSI facilitates the release of deliveries from ships that carry supplies to the CNMI. These cargoes carry different supplies like food, medicine, water, liquor, frozen goods, and chilled seafood to name a few. These shipments come from Guam, Micronesia, Asia, and from shipment consolidations that come from Los Angeles.

Alvin Lorenzo, of Cargo Express Saipan, said that some of their clients have become inactive due to the current circumstances, but this has not impaired their service. “...We still have the same staff even though business has become slow. ...We are still looking into options on how we can maintain our operating hours and cut costs but we assure everyone that we continue our forwarding and trucking services even in these tough times.”

The company has international partners that continue to ship cargo to Saipan. Most of Cargo Express Saipan’s goods come from the U.S. mainland (mainly California), Guam, the Philippines, China, South Korea, among others.

“...Walk-in clients are free to drop by from 8am to 1pm. ...Deliveries of ISO containers—20-foot/40-foot/45-foot containers—are still the same, from 8am to 5pm,” he added.

Although running on new operating hours, restaurants continue to serve food via take-out. Many of them are taking advantage of social media to take in orders and deliver them, like Tom Yum Restaurant on

Middle Road. “We call it Tom Yum Restaurant online service where people can add this page of their Facebook network. On the page, people can see our full menu and, by sending us a message, they can place an order and state the pick-up time. ... This way, we are still accessible,” Tom Yum owner Natalia Gvan said.

To make it simple for Ina’s Kitchen customers, their full menu is available on Instagram and they can call the restaurant to place an order.

Aside from take-out, 360 Revolving Restaurant in Susupe also offers delivery service at specific times. Place your order via text, message or logging in to their website and Eats Easy provides food delivery service and grocery delivery through their Easy Grocery app.

Maria Valenzuela of San Vicente said that Artman Trash service is still on schedule. “I was afraid that the cutting of operating hours might affect their services. But they still pick up trash in my neighborhood at the same day and time,” she said.

Going two years since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI and despite of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is still building and repairing homes on Saipan and Tinian. “FEMA and their contractors are maintaining their delivery schedules for the survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu,” said FEMA external affairs officer Mark “Todd” Hoose.

“Our FEMA contractors are practicing social distancing and appropriate cleaning efforts, as outlined by the governor, but safe secure housing for the residents of the CNMI is certainly a priority to all of us,” Hoose added.

The CNMI has been living under a new normal the past few days due to COVID -19 concerns and the resulting business limited hours imposed by the CNMI government but, as shown by these examples, business still does go on for some.

AT A GLANCE

As of March 26, 2020

GUAM	
Tested:	308
Negative:	263
Positive:	45
Deaths:	1

CNMI	
Tested:	5
Negative:	5
Positive:	0
Deaths:	0

Source: Joint Information Center–Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

BECQ continues water monitoring to ensure public health

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With people depending on fishing as a source of food, and some still going out to the beach as a form of recreation, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality continues to prioritize public health through its water quality monitoring program.

Division of Environmental Quality director Jonathan Arriola said in an interview that BECQ's priority is to safeguard people's health and the environment. That means that, while BECQ is closed to the public, following the two-week government shutdown, the office continues to monitor the quality of CNMI waters.

"Water quality is very important," Arriola said. "It's really both marine and freshwater. [We are] determining the amount of micro bacteria that's in our water and making sure that our water standards, especially the microbial standards, are in compliance."

"We want to make sure that people don't get sick because they're swimming into an area that has a high number of bacteria, or fecal coliform is indicated in the water. We just want to make sure that [people] don't get sick," he added.

DEQ employees continue to sample beach sites all over the CNMI—50 on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, and 12 on Rota—for bacteria levels, and beaches that would be found to have

high bacteria counts are issued red flags, with advisories that people not swim nor fish in those locations.

"People are still out at the

beaches, using the beaches for recreation, for fishing," BECQ's water quality surveillance manager Larry Maurin said. "In this time

when we have a national public health crisis, we need to do everything we can to protect public health, keeping the public healthy."

"We want to prevent people from getting sick not just during this crisis, but anytime. It's all the more important to be doing that right now, while there's these [COVID-19 threats], we need to keep people healthy and out of the hospital as much as we can," he added.

Samples taken from the beach sites on all three islands are processed and analyzed at the BECQ laboratory.

"Our goal is for public health. If somebody goes fishing and the waters [are unsafe], people are going to be sick," BECQ laboratory manager Charito Bautista said.

Aside from beach quality water monitoring, BECQ also monitors drinking water through its Safe Drinking Water program.



Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality laboratory manager Charito Bautista shows water samples taken and being analyzed last Wednesday to ensure that the health of the beach-going, fish-loving public remains safeguarded.

IVA MAURIN

Small craft advisory until Saturday

A small craft advisory has been declared for the Marianas starting last night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a shear line pushing down from north of Saipan will bring periods of fresh to strong easterly winds starting last night and lasting into the weekend.

The advisory is in effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota coastal waters from 10am Friday to late Saturday night.

According to the NWS projection at 5:30pm yesterday, east winds will be 20 to 25 knots, while seas will be between 8 and 9 feet. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point is advising the public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions. (PR)

Detecting a leak: There are THREE ways to detect a gas leak (smell is the most common):

SMELL — To help you SMELL a gas leak, a familiar odor like rotten eggs is added to both natural gas and propane.

SEE — Near a leaking gas pipeline, you might SEE blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation.

HEAR — A leaking pipeline, appliance, storage tank or cylinder (propane only) might make a hissing sound you can HEAR.

If you ever suspect a gas leak, leave the area immediately. (Do not touch or use anything electric on your way out—not even a light switch or telephone.) Then, call your local gas provider or 9-1-1.

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence

For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com

Attorney for: Petitioner Christina Palacios Sedaghaty

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF REX INDALCIO PALACIOS, Deceased)
PROBATE CASE NO. 20-0107-CV)
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO PROBATE and)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS)
Date: May 14, 2020)
Time: 10:00AM)
Judge: Camacho, Joseph Norita)

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE REX I. PALACIOS OR OF HIS ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY that Petitioner, Christina Palacios Sedaghaty, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to probate the Last Will and Testament of REX ALAN INDALCIO PALACIOS, "Testator or Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Last Will and Testament of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on April 9, 2020 at 10:00AM, at the CNMI Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

By: /s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita
Dated this 14 March 2020.

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com

Attorney for: Petitioner Jose T. Seman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACOB T. SEMAN, Deceased)
PROBATE CASE NO. 20-0112-CV)
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO PROBATE and)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS)
Date: Thur, May 21, 2020)
Time: 10:00AM)
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho)

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JACOB T. SEMAN OR OF HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Jose T. Seman, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of JACOB TAKEDA SEMAN, "Testator or Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Last Will and Testament of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at Susuper Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

By: /s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita
Dated this 24 March 2020.

Serving our islands for over 25 years!

World Tour & Travel
Your Professional Travel Agency
Agent for most airlines of United, Delta, Asiana, Korean, PAL
Help for mileage booking and online reservations.

World Wide Insurance
Meets your Insurance Needs for Auto, Worker's Comp. Public Liability & Fire.

World Express Service
Specializes in Chinese Visa, Public Notary Service
Consulate Certifying service in Chinese L.A. Consulate

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES

Tel.: 233-3600/3700/3605 • Fax: 233-3900
2nd Floor, M2M Bldg., Garapan, between Bank of Guam and Bank of Saipan

Midea ELECTRIC

Spring PROMOTION

New Arrival on Hot Sale

BUNDLE PROMOTION:
AVAIL HUGE DISCOUNTS OF **10-20% OFF**
FOR AIRCON + REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER.
ENJOY MORE SAVINGS!

MIDEA AIRCONDITIONING
AUX BRAND AIRCONDITIONING
FREEZER
REFRIGERATOR
WASHER
LED ITEMS
RICE COOKER
ELECTRIC FAN
SOLAR LIGHT
TV SMART 32" TO 55"
FAUCETS
HARDWARE
HOME APPLIANCES
RECHARGEABLE SPEAKER ETC.

WE DO WHOLESALE
All rechargeable speakers have bluetooth.
Lowest price is down to \$13.99

Located at CK across the U.S. Post Office

HAO'S AIR CONDITIONING

Phone: 234-0680 / 285-0680 Fax: 234-0688
For more info, check us at the store.
INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

NEW ARRIVAL

LAVATORY FAUCET,
MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS,
G.I. PIPES, SQUARE
TUBES,
SHORING JACK PIPE,
ROOFING TIN
& MANY MORE
ABS, CPVC, PVC,
CONDUIT PIPES
& FITTINGS ARE
ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS,
WATER HEATER &
WINDOWS

NEW ARRIVAL Furniture



Make a Difference for Your House!



NEW ARRIVALS! VALSPAR PAINT

It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!



LED LIGHTS

• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

G60 Rebar is Available Now!

CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488

E-mail: guangdong_hardware@163.com

BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Man arrested for allegedly making terroristic threats

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received numerous complaints of an individual who posted a threat of violence toward on-island leaders through an

online platform.

Authorities began investigating after becoming aware of the comment made online, and quickly identified Angel San Nicolas as the suspect. The following day authori-

ties met with San Nicolas at his home, where it was confirmed that his social media account was still active and that he is the only individual utilizing the account. During a second interview on the

same day San Nicolas admitted to drafting the comment and gave a written statement regarding the incident.

At approximately 11:15am on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, San Nicolas was placed under arrest for terroristic threatening in violation of the

Commonwealth code. He was escorted to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

If you know someone who is making threats on-

line or toward someone you know, do not hesitate to call



San Nicolas

care for you and your family's wellbeing. (PR)

911. If you would like to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. The safety of the public is of the utmost importance. Your CNMI law enforcement officers

'Grocery stores, banks should have flexibility'

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With people packing up stores to get some basic necessities within the 6am to 1pm time frame, a growing clamor in the community to adjust the work hours are reaching more and more lawmakers.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), stressing the importance of "flattening the curve," has joined her colleagues—House minority leader Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan)—to call on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to amend the directive concerning business hours.

The governor ordered the hours when businesses are open to the general public be

reduced as a COVID-19 preventive measure. Many businesses throughout the CNMI have been implementing the executive order since Tuesday. It is among the many actions currently the government is implementing to ensure that the novel coronavirus threat is mitigated on the island, especially with the reported positive cases in Guam.

"Immediate and aggressive action is smart now because tests are in short supply, and with cases rising in neighboring Guam, it's safer at this point to assume that COVID-19 is already in the CNMI as well. We are so vulnerable here and it's crucial that we pull together as a community to do everything we can in the time that we have to 'flat-

RELATED NEWS

■ Castro: Business hours need to be revised.

PAGE 7

ten the curve' and slow the spread," she said.

Sablan appealed, however, the restriction in the hours of operations of essential businesses, like grocery stores and banks, be amended as soon as possible, stating that the policy promotes crowding, and fosters hoarding and panic buying.

"It threatens to reverse all the progress we may have made through the other smart, proactive social distancing and quarantining measures and public outreach that have been carried out thus far," she said.

The legislator said the flex-

ibility Torres has given to gas stations to determine their business hours should also be extended to grocery stores, "where people go, every day, to buy basic life necessities like food, water, cleaning and hygiene supplies, and over-the-counter medication."

Sablan further stated that banks should be able to determine their own hours, as people regularly go to these facilities to access money, pay bills, and make essential purchases.

"People need food, water, medicine, and money as much as they need gas, clean laundry, and running water. ... In this rapidly evolving COVID-19 world, drastic measures must be taken quickly to protect public health, and they must also be changed quickly if they prove to be counterproductive," she added.

9 minors apprehended so far due to curfew violations

The CNMI Department of Public Safety would like to thank parents and guardians for your help during the enforcement of the curfew laws for minors throughout the three municipalities (Saipan, Tinian and Aguiguan, and Rota).

At the start of Directive 2020-05 by Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, DPS noticed a drastic drop in numbers of minors roaming through any public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, public buildings, places of amusement, and entertainment, restaurants, cafes and other eateries, or vacant lots and places within the three municipalities (Saipan, Tinian and Aguiguan, and Rota) during and between the hours of 7pm until 6am.

A total of nine minors were cited and brought back home to date. Police met with their parents and educated the families on the importance of the curfew laws, and how we can all do our part to protect friends, family and the *man'amko*.

Pursuant to local curfew laws, only exceptions include minors who are ac-

companied by their parent, guardian, or an adult, who are in the direct route driving and returning home, or who are lawfully employed during the hours specified.

Any person who violates this directive may be imprisoned for a period not to exceed 30 days, and made to render up to 250 hours of community service.

Any minor violating the provisions of this chapter may be given a citation or apprehended and may be detained, and appropriate proceedings may be instituted under and pursuant to the provisions of the juvenile court law.

Any parent, guardian, or other adult person having the lawful custody, permanent or temporary, of any minor who suffers or permits or lets, either willfully or negligently, such minor to violate curfew laws shall be fined not more than \$750.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the CNMI Department of Public Safety advises the public to refrain from making unnecessary trips to public places. Limit public exposure to grocery store trips and food pick-ups. (PR)

Application period open for Energizing Insular Communities Program funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Proposals from U.S. territories are now being accepted for the Energizing Insular Communities program funding for fiscal year 2020.

Those eligible to apply are local government entities, independent authorities, and educational institutions located in American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The deadline is June 15, 2020.

"This program supports the

President and the Department's priority to promote energy and economic security for America," said U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Douglas W. Domenech, Insular and International Affairs, yesterday. "We are a committed partner with the governors to help advance their collective goal to make power more affordable in the islands and increase energy security for their communities."

Each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated for two important criteria: one, whether the proposal is directly tied to the territory's respective strategic energy plan, energy action plan, or integrated resource plan; and two, whether there is a projected energy cost savings to end-users.

All applications should be submitted through the federal website for grants at [gants.gov](https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance), where the EIC grant is listed under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 15.875. For detailed instructions, visit <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB20-CHCC/MCHB-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 30, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

"LEASE VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO RFP'S TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/OD2A-002

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 6, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

"PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) MULTI-FUNCTION DIGITAL COLOR COPIER/NETWORK PRINTER/SCANNER"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO RFP'S TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TSA RECAPITALIZATION PROGRAM

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport TSA Recapitalization Program Project, No. CPA-SA-006-16, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/S/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: February 27, 2020

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticpm.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PARKING LOT EXPANSION
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for expansion of the parking lot at the Tinian International Airport on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 27, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/S/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 11, 2020

MARCH SPECIAL!

3BR 2BA & 4BR 2BA
1st Month Rent Free!!!
Free Washer & Dryer
Rent starting
at \$746/mo
Section 8 accepted
Move in ready
CALL TODAY!
588-7746 / 285-4745
ISa Villas 1
Corner of Guguan St.
Anatahan St. Capitol Hill

Automatic loan payment deferral for CDA borrowers

The Commonwealth Development Authority, through its board of directors, will continue to prioritize support for the relief and recovery of businesses, as the economic impact from the coronavirus pandemic has become even more apparent. As a result of heightened emergency mea-

sures that are needed to win the battle against the highly contagious and deadly coronavirus pandemic, CDA will grant an eight-month (240-day) automatic loan payment deferral for CDA borrowers to defer their payments from March 2020 and ending on Oct. 31, 2020. No action is

required by borrowers to defer their payments.

■ The deferred loan payments will be added to the end of the loan.

■ Customers just need to remember that they will have to make those payments eventually.

■ Interest will accrue dur-

ing the eight-month loan payment deferral period. (Loan interest rates range from a low of 2% to a max of 9%—with rates averaging 6%).

For new CDA loans and loan revisions, those borrowers will also have the option to start their first loan payment during the month of November 2020.

For those who opt to continue making their regular monthly loan payments or partial payments to reduce their debt sooner, (which has historically happened during previous loan deferral periods) here are the payment options available, due to the emergency measures and physical distancing to prevent the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus, COVID-19.

On Saipan, Tinian, and Rota:

■ Borrowers may deposit direct payments through Bank of Guam to CDA Bank of Guam checking account. Email m.coleman@developmentmi.com or call 670-234-6245 Ext. 307 to obtain the CDA checking account number. On the bank deposit slip, include the borrower name or loan number to ensure payment is credited to your loan. You may email CDA a copy (scanned or snapshot) to the aforementioned email or drop a copy of the deposit slip in the CDA drop box located outside the CDA building on the first floor, right outside the office.

■ For credit/debit card payments, call (670) 234-6245 Ext. 307, Monday to Thursday, between 1pm and 3pm, or send card information and amount of payment, by email to m.coleman@developmentmi.com

■ Borrowers may also mail check payments to: CDA, Attn: Loan Department, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

■ For borrowers with scheduled automatic loan payments, contact CDA if you'd like to temporarily cease those payments for all or part of the deferral period. Contact us at above email and phone number.

■ On Saipan, for check payments, use the drop box located outside the first floor of the CDA office in the CDA building, located on Beach Road, across the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill (Cash payments are discouraged. **(PR)**)



EERILY EMPTY BEACH ROAD

Except for a few vehicles, Beach Road appears deserted these days, rendered eerily empty by emergency measures the CNMI government is implementing as a precautionary measure against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

CHEVY KATE ALPIO

Castro: Business hours need to be revised

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan) has joined the call for the new business hours to be revised, following Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' new directive permitting stores, particularly supermarkets, to operate and open their facilities to the public only from 6am to 1pm.

While acknowledging that it was a tough decision, Castro believes that it should be up to the businesses to decide how long they should make themselves available in order to ensure that CNMI residents will not act impulsively.

"As our *man'amko* say, *'Hamyu mäs tumungo,*' hence why I feel this should be looked at further and re-evaluated," he said.

The new directive, according to Castro, has proven in the last two days that, although made in the interest of the community, it has given constituents and, most importantly, the businesses affected with "great difficulties."

The legislator added that the limited hours are creating long lines getting into and out of stores, made trying to get

goods needed to operate difficult due to the limited operational times and, more importantly, made large groups of residents congregate at a time where people are asked to keep distances from each other.

Castro also questioned why businesses were not consulted before the release of the new directive, following reports that representatives of government agencies have asked businesses their preferred times of limited hours.

"Though Guam is currently reeling with cases of COVID-19 continuously climbing with one death already, GovGuam in its declaration for social isolation exempted supermarkets and other businesses they felt needed to continue operating to provide services for the over 100,000 that call that island home," he said.

As a COVID-19 preventive measure, the governor has ordered the reduction of business hours where facilities can be open to the general public beginning Tuesday, and where proper social distancing practices must be observed.

"What we've seen with disasters such as Yutu and Soudelor is that when resource-

es are limited, panic gets triggered," he said.

Castro further stated that though most people have maintained orderly conduct since the issuance of the directive, it has made people either worry about not being able to get what they can so they go back home to their families, or worry about potentially coming in contact with COVID-19.

"We are in tough times," the legislator added, "but we can only get through times like these if there is cooperation from all ends, from our businesses who have been doing their part to work through this trying time, from our residents who are being as patient as they can with decisions made for their safety, and from the government who make those decisions."

Castro also extended appreciation to all the work the government has done via the COVID-19 Task Force to safeguard the CNMI, and joined in appealing to everyone to continue practicing proper hygiene and social distancing, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

"Tough as it may be, it's the reality we're in now. We just all have to be kind to each other, cooperate with one another, and ensure what is decided is best for all of us," he added.



Castro

Bank of Hawaii Corporation

and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION At the Close of Business December 31, 2019 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Interest-Bearing Deposits in Other Banks	\$ 4,979	Deposits	\$ 15,784,482
Investment Securities	5,661,297	Securities Sold Under	
Funds Sold	254,574	Agreements to Repurchase	604,306
Loans Held for Sale	39,062	Operating Lease Liabilities	108,210
Loans and Leases	10,990,892	Retirement Benefits Payable	44,504
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses	(110,027)	Accrued Interest Payable	8,040
Net Loans and Leases	<u>10,880,865</u>	Taxes Payable and Deferred Taxes	16,085
		Other Liabilities	157,472
		Other Debt	<u>85,565</u>
TOTAL EARNING ASSETS	16,840,777	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>16,808,664</u>
Cash and Due From Banks	299,105	Shareholders' Equity	
Premises and Equipment, Net	188,388	Common Stock	579
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets	100,838	Capital Surplus	582,566
Accrued Interest Receivable	46,476	Accumulated Other	
Foreclosed Real Estate	2,737	Comprehensive Loss	(31,112)
Mortgage Servicing Rights	25,022	Retained Earnings	1,761,415
Goodwill	31,517	Treasury Stock, at Cost	<u>(1,026,616)</u>
Bank-Owned Life Insurance	287,962		
Other Assets	<u>272,264</u>	TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	<u>1,286,832</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$18,095,496</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	<u>\$18,095,496</u>

BANK OF HAWAII - SAIPAN STATEMENT OF CONDITION

At the Close of Business December 31, 2019 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$ 713	Deposits	\$ 185,594
Loans, Net of Unearned Income	33,529	Operating Lease Liabilities	30
Allowance for Loan Losses	(631)	Accrued Interest Payable	142
Net Loans	<u>32,898</u>	Other Liabilities	<u>25</u>
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets	30		
Accrued Interest Receivable	122	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 185,791</u>
Due from Head Office	150,619		
Premises and Equipment, Net	587		
Other Assets	<u>822</u>		
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 185,791</u>		

The audit reports of Bank of Hawaii Corporation and Bank of Hawaii - Saipan Branches are available for public review at the Office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce, Capital Hill, Saipan.

MEMBER FDIC

MINA gets grant for Yutu marine debris removal in NMI

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance was recently notified that it has been awarded a grant to fund debris removal in the CNMI.

In a statement yesterday, MINA said the grant award is sourced from a special fund established by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with NOAA's Marine Debris Program spe-

cifically for Hurricanes Michael and Florence in Florida and North Carolina, and Typhoon Yutu in the CNMI. In total, the grant amounts to \$8.2 million to be split into six for the assessment, removal and disposal of marine debris that resulted from the devastation left in the wake of these storms.

"Our own human wellbeing

and economic prosperity depend upon the health and resilience of natural and social systems," said retired Navy Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., deputy NOAA administrator. "These grants will help communities recover from storm damage by assessing, removing and disposing of storm-generated debris that continues to affect wildlife, habitats,

and coastal communities."

After an initial assessment conducted by MINA in early December 2019, the determination was made that this debris poses a severe threat to the reef system and natural marine habitat, particularly in the Tinian Harbor.

MINA will be working closely with the Tinian Municipality's Division of Emergency Preparedness in the removal of debris from the Tinian Harbor. "Because the typhoon left large amounts of debris in our harbor, it is currently a hazard to navigation, as well as commercial fishing along the area," said Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan. "In

addition, because the Tinian Harbor is the only one on island that accommodates the docking of boats, it is vital that we maintain the clearing of this fishing ground, and the protection of these sensitive ecosystems. We are excited for what is to come out of this grant for the island of Tinian, and we look forward to assisting you in any way that we can to ensure the success of this project! Again, we are very grateful to MINA for your untiring assistance to our island!"

MINA would like to express its gratitude to NFWF and NOAA for making this grant possible, and the untiring

support of MINA's mission to "Empower Communities for Conservation" from Delegate Gregorio C. Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), the NOAA regional offices in Hawaii and the CNMI, the Office of the Governor, the Tinian Mayor's Office, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

More information about this grant and NFWF is available at the following link: <https://www.nfwf.org/media-center/press-releases/nfwf-and-noaa-announce-82-million-grants-aid-communities-after-hurricanes-michael-florence-and>. (PR)

USCIS extends office closure to April 6

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has extended the temporarily suspension of in-person services at its field offices, asylum offices, and Application Support Centers until at least April 6.

According to a notice yesterday, USCIS offices will reopen on April 7 unless the public closures are extended further.

USCIS temporarily closed its offices nationwide last March 18 to help slow the spread of the coronavirus disease, or COVID-19. Employees in these offices are continuing to perform mission-essential services that do not require face-to-face contact with the public.

USCIS will continue to provide limited emergency services. Call the Contact

Center for assistance with emergency services.

USCIS field offices will send notices to applicants and petitioners with scheduled appointments and naturalization ceremonies impacted by the extended closure. USCIS asylum offices will send interview cancellation notices and automatically reschedule asylum interviews. When the interview is rescheduled, asylum applicants will receive a new interview notice with the new time, date and location of the interview. When USCIS again resumes normal operations, USCIS will automatically reschedule ASC appointments due to the office closure. You will receive a new appointment letter in the mail. Individuals who had InfoPass or

other appointments must reschedule through the USCIS Contact Center once field offices are open to the public again. Please check to see if your field office has been reopened before reaching out to the USCIS Contact Center.

Education and precautions are the strongest tools against infection. Get the latest facts by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 website. Continue to practice good health habits, refrain from handshakes or hugs as greetings, and wash hands and clean surfaces appropriately.

USCIS will provide further updates as the situation develops and will continue to follow CDC guidance. Also visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for updates. (PR)

UOG classes will go online for the rest of the semester

The University of Guam is transitioning all of its classes into an online or alternative format for the remainder of the academic semester. Courses that had previously been in an online or hybrid format will resume as usual on Monday. All other previously

face-to-face classes will begin on April 6.

"Our faculty and staff have been working hard to transform all of our classes to online or to an alternative format," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. "We are confident that our students

working together with our faculty will ensure a successful completion of this semester."

The University of Guam has set up training for faculty and students throughout next week to familiarize them with various online learning tools. Students can also attend a "virtual field trip into online learning" to learn more about the e-learning, teleconferencing, and video conferencing platforms their instructors have selected to continue teaching their classes.

"Our number one goal in converting all of our courses is the success of our students," said senior vice president and provost Anita Borja Enriquez. "We will ensure no student is left behind in finishing this semester. We will do everything possible to support their needs and work with them on any issues they might have."

The university plans to complete the semester on its original timeline, with final exams scheduled for May 18-22. Certain deadlines have been extended for this semester.

For more information about student services while the island deals with COVID-19, review the Continuity of Operations Plan for Enrollment Management and Student Success on the UOG website at www.uog.edu/admissions. (PR)

DIOCESE OF CHALAN KANOA

Guidelines for parishioners

In light of the continuing health crisis we are currently dealing with, the clergy of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, in their meeting last March 24 2020, decided to continue across all parishes the following directives:

■ No public Mass until further notice.
■ Everyone is invited to participate in the online Mass via:

□ Facebook @dioceseofchalananoa

§ Daily: 6am/6pm

§ Sunday: 6am/9am/11am/6pm

□ Cable TV Channel 6

§ Daily: 6am/6pm

§ Sunday: 6am/9am/11am/6pm

□ Radio on 1440AM and 92.1 FM

§ Daily: 6am/10am/6pm

■ For those who want to pray in private, all churches will remain open from 7am to 1pm.

■ Everyone is encouraged to strictly practice social distancing.

Also, as health precautionary measures and in keeping with the Enhanced Social Distancing Memorandum issued by the Office of the governor, the following will be observed during the Holy Week:

A. PALM SUNDAY (APRIL 5)

■ No public blessing of palms.

■ A separate time will be designated later in the year for actual blessing of palms in parishes.

■ Mass will be celebrated without congregation at designated churches:

□ Saipan – Mt. Carmel Cathedral

□ Rota – San Francisco de Borja Church

□ Tinian – San Jose Church

Parishioners are invited to participate via Facebook, cable TV and/or radio. Livestreaming will follow the regular Sunday schedule.

B. CHRISM MASS (APRIL 8)

■ Mass will be celebrated without the congregation at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Parishioners are invited to participate via Facebook, cable TV and/or radio. Livestreaming begins at 7pm.

C. HOLY THURSDAY (APRIL 9)

■ Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated without congregation at designated churches:

□ Saipan – Mt. Carmel Cathedral

□ Rota – San Francisco de Borja Church

□ Tinian – San Jose Church

■ Parishioners are invited to participate via Facebook, cable TV and/or radio. Livestreaming begins at 6pm.

■ Following the decree from Congregation on Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments, parishioners are reminded of the following:

□ No washing of the feet

□ No transfer of the Blessed Sacrament

to the Altar of Repose

□ No vigil and "Visita Iglesia"

D. GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 10)

■ Schedule of worship services without congregation will be as follows:

□ Stations of the Cross at 8am.

□ Divine Mercy at 12pm.

□ Seven Last Words at 1pm.

■ Parishioners are invited to participate via Facebook, cable TV and/or radio. Livestreaming of all services will be as indicated.

■ Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Communion Service without congregation will be done simultaneously at designated churches:

□ Saipan – Mt. Carmel Cathedral

□ Rota – San Francisco de Borja Church

□ Tinian – San Jose Church

■ Parishioners are invited to participate via Facebook, cable TV and/or radio. Livestreaming begins at 3pm.

■ Following the decree from Congregation on Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments, parishioners are reminded of the following:

□ No annual trek to Mt. Tapochao and similar activities on Rota and Tinian.

□ No islandwide processions on all three islands.

□ No veneration of the "Santo Entiero"

E. EASTER VIGIL (APRIL 11)

■ Vigil will be celebrated without congregation at designated churches:

□ Saipan – Mt. Carmel Cathedral

□ Rota – San Francisco de Borja Church

□ Tinian – San Jose Church

■ Parishioners are invited to participate via Facebook, cable TV and/or radio.

F. EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 12)

■ Mass will be celebrated without congregation at designated churches:

□ Saipan – Mt. Carmel Cathedral

□ Rota – San Francisco de Borja Church

□ Tinian – San Jose Church

■ Parishioners are invited to participate via Facebook, cable TV and/or radio. Livestreaming will follow the regular Sunday schedule.

In all celebrations the parishioners are reminded of the following:

■ Observe customary ways of disposing oneself when participating at Live broadcasts of Mass and other worship services as if one is attending physically at the church.

■ Pray and reflect in silence.

■ Sacrament of Reconciliation is highly encouraged. Contact your respective pastors to schedule a specific date and time. (PR)



PSS begins Grab&Go meal distribution to students

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System Child Nutrition Program began its first meal distribution on Wednesday with over a 1,000 set of meals distributed. At Garapan Elementary School, hundreds of children, accompanied by their parents, came to pick up meals via drive-thru and walk-in. According to Jeremy Sager, general manager for Triple J restaurants, the first day

of meal distributions, called Grab&Go, went with hardly a hitch. “Everything is going great and I think this is going to be a good thing for the public, especially for the children who are in need of meals,” he said. In terms of challenges, Sager said everyone cooperated and it was smooth sailing from the start. “It’s been a very smooth process. Everyone seems to be cooperating and following directions,” he said. Sager explained that Triple

J was approached to volunteer to help distribute the meals. Altogether, Triple J provided 30 volunteers that were spread out among 10 different distribution locations. According to Roy Adsit, who oversaw the distribution at Saipan Southern High School, the first distribution day was not as overwhelming as he had expected. “First day we were thinking that there would be a lot more people. Apparently other schools need more people




Gov. Ralph DLG Torres takes part in the Grab&Go meal distribution operation at Saipan Southern High School. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




Jeremy Sager, general manager for Triple J restaurants, helps hand out meals at the meal distribution at Garapan Elementary School. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

but here at Southern it’s been steady but not overwhelming,” he said. Adsit said all the volunteers did a great job distributing the meals and there weren’t that many bumps along the way. “I think everybody did a good job today. We kept our distance. People got healthy food, I think it went well,” he said. Adsit said he is just glad PSS CNP decided to push through with the meal distribution because he was worried about a lot of children who wouldn’t be able to afford meals because of the current economic crisis. “For a lot of these kids, their parents are unemployed or underemployed right now because...the economy has shut down, so instead of waiting for help [that] might not come to us, we have this here. We have the money, let’s get some food to the kids that need it. I’m glad we’re doing that,” he said. The meal distribution sites are at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, Garapan Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Marianas High School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, ChaCha Ocean View Middle School, Chalan Kanoa Head Start, Tinian Elementary School, Sinapalo Elementary School, and Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School. Meal distribution will be from 9:30am to 10:30am, Mondays to Fridays.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-20-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of **No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" **ASTM D975-14**.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-19-036, REV. 1

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have previously purchased CUC-IFB-19-036, no purchase is needed but will still have to register in order to receive the package.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-036-Rev.1, Security Guard Services"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 14, 2020**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on March 25, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 61

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Lack of widespread coronavirus testing contributes to spread of disease, fear

Maryland-based virologist Robert Gallo, best known for co-discovering that HIV was the cause of AIDS, used his Chinese connections to score 1,000 coronavirus testing kits for the state. And we're grateful. It's 1,000 more than we had—but several million less than we need.

That has nothing to do with the world-renowned Dr. Gallo, who was able to leverage his reputation and contacts on our behalf. It has everything to do with the shortsightedness of the Trump administration, which chose not to use a test first distributed in February by the World Health Organization, and instead try to produce its own.

That fateful decision was one of the first and most significant failures in the country's handling of coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control ran into issues with lab contamination and manufacturing problems that slowed test development. And now that production is finally beginning to catch up to demand, we have a shortage of supplies needed to carry out the tests, including the super-slim swabs needed to gather samples from a patient's nose and the chemical reagents required to complete the test.

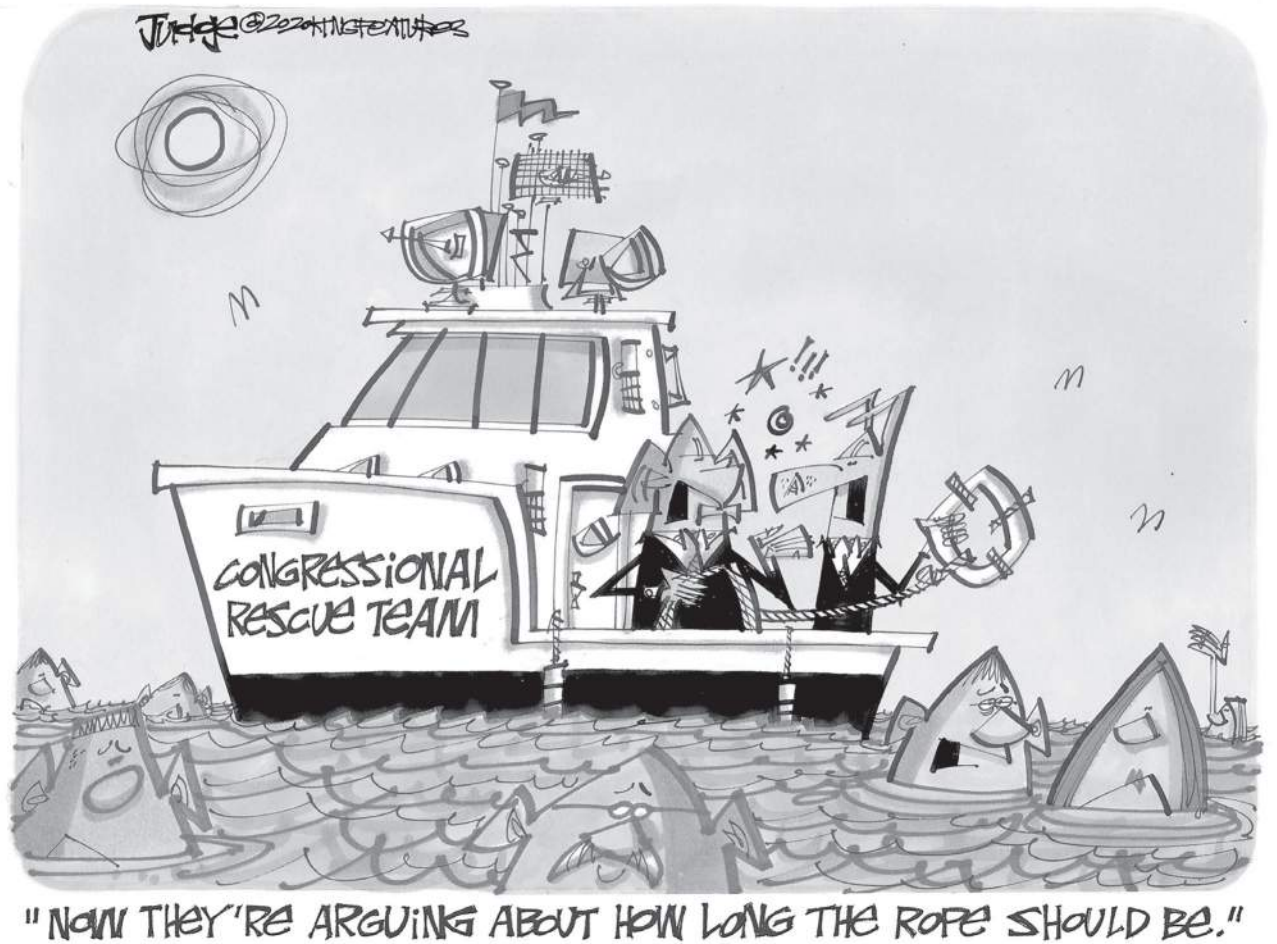
Such delays allowed the disease to spread unchecked and left scientists in the dark on critical information about where the disease was concentrated, how it was spreading and how fast. Even now, we don't really know how many cases there are. Testing is based on CDC criteria and prioritized, going first to hospitalized patients with signs of the disease; at-risk groups, like older adults with underlying medical conditions, showing symptoms; and people who've been in close contact with a COVID-19 patient.

And many of those who meet the criteria say they're having trouble getting tested. Sandy Laubenheimer contacted the Baltimore Sun's editorial board on behalf of her daughter, Angela Zahn, who works for a homeless outreach center. Zahn was in New York the last weekend in February, staying at an apartment with friends. Someone there later tested positive for the virus. But trying to get tested here in Baltimore was a nightmare—"both unorganized and extremely stressful," she said.

It started with a call to the city local health department, who referred Zahn to her primary care doctor, who referred her to a hospital. Zahn called four of them, before she was finally told her doctor was supposed to be coordinating next steps. She got a referral, and then went through further hassles trying to figure which Johns Hopkins hospital campus to go to; staff was not well informed, she said.

"It was very disorganized, and I had to wait what seemed like a long time just to be seen," Zahn said. "In the face of such a serious public health crisis, it is important that Mary-

See LACK on Next Page



Helping neighbors in a time of crisis

By EMILIE KAO and ANDREA JONES
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

When Rev. Jay Vorhees, pastor of City Road Chapel just outside Nashville, Tenn., saw dozens of people in his community laid off as restaurants and bars were forced to close because of COVID-19, he started a fund to buy grocery store gift cards to help them get through the crisis.

Such charity, happily, is not uncommon. Across America, people of faith and religious organizations – spurred by President Donald Trump's call to pray and act in response to this crisis – are finding innovative ways to meet the medical, financial and spiritual needs of their neighbors.

Religious organizations, long at the forefront of America's health care system, are playing a vital role in combating COVID-19. Seventeen percent of America's hospitals are faith-based, with Catholic hospitals hosting one in every six of the nation's hospital beds and Seventh-Day Adventists treating over five million patients each year. As American cases of COVID-19 have surged, their services have become critical to the country's ability to treat patients and stop the disease's spread.

Churches and other religious communities are also finding other ways to increase the public health system's capacity to respond to the virus. Despite having to suspend worship services, Alabama's largest church found a new way to serve. In close coordination with the state government, Birmingham's Church of the Highlands began hosting a drive-thru COVID-19 test site. The church has run a medical clinic since 2009 and in just two days, qualified medical personnel staff tested nearly 1,000 people.

And America's faith-based organizations aren't only responding to COVID-19 in the United States. Samaritan's Purse, a North-Carolina based Christian relief organization, recently airlifted a field hospital and medical personnel to the city of Cremona in northern Italy, which is suffering from a shortage of hospital beds and medical equipment due to the virus.

Houses of worship and faith-based charities are also mobilizing to meet their neighbors' material and financial needs. Miriam's Kitchen, an interfaith ministry in Washington, D.C., normally provides hot meals to the hungry, but they have rapidly shifted to providing takeout meals served in the church's courtyard instead of its basement to allow for greater social distancing. Ministries such as Miriam's Kitchen have been around for years and are trusted by their communities, making them especially effective in times of crisis.

In California and Michigan, faith-based ministries are donating and distributing groceries for the elderly and medically vulnerable. They're also providing meals to children who have lost access to school breakfasts and lunches because of coronavirus-related closures. And several Muslim organizations banded together to raise over \$200,000 for low-income families impacted by the crisis.

In times of great stress, religious organizations are also equipped to provide mental, emotional and spiritual support. Many Americans' lives have been upended, some are battling illness and others are struggling with uncertainty and loneliness as they self-quarantine. In a time of social distancing, religious leaders are finding new ways to convey encouragement to their congregations. J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, recorded a video message to pray for church members and encouraged them to seek out ways to safely serve their neighbors.

Campus ministries, already embedded in the lives and communities of students, are repositioning themselves to support students faced with sudden disruption. Hillel, a campus ministry to Jewish students, launched an initiative to provide virtual meet-ups for students who are now physically separated from community. A Christian ministry, Cru, helped students pack up and move out of their campus housing.

As the Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Opportunity Initiatives noted in a COVID-19 guidance statement: "Faith-based and community leaders continue to be valuable sources of comfort and support for their members and communities during times of distress. They have the unique ability to address potential concerns, fears and anxieties regarding COVID-19. Additionally, by reiterating simple hygienic precautions and practices, these leaders can broadly promote helpful information."

As they have throughout our history, America's faith-based organizations are reaching out to their neighbors by keeping them informed and by meeting their material, social and spiritual needs. Their trusted relationships and local knowledge are enabling them to respond effectively to the emergency, doing invaluable work that governments are not always able to perform.

In the ongoing battle against the coronavirus, they are giving strength and spreading hope to Americans as they face the days ahead.

Emilie Kao is Director of the DeVos Center on Religion and Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org). Andrea Jones is a researcher for the DeVos Center.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reworking economy

President Trump and the U.S. Congress have approved a \$2 trillion economic stimulus assistance program to help people and businesses rebuild and return to normal life. It's timely help for coronavirus-stricken folks across the country.

Be that as it may, it's good to know that the NMI is free of the fatal virus and hope it stays this way. It would be a mind-numbing challenge handling a lethal health issue we know nothing about. Imagine overwhelming the Commonwealth Health Center with woefully ill patients struggling to survive fatal viral infection.

A large production of medical and other supplies has begun in various countries intended to delay the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable and help those infected. The spread seems huge as it requires several states to build additional hospital facilities.

Promoting and ensuring health helps other sectors of normal activities in any community. It is never the reverse. How do you move about when half your people are home, sick? It's a personal responsibility and more the reason to stay healthy!

Refocusing

Amidst preparation, it's common knowledge that we've helped other countries rebuild successfully; it's now our turn to help ourselves!

Multinational firms seeking help from the U.S. Congress are required to bring back jobs to our country, a reciprocal requirement.

The focus is to rebuild our country so there's less reliance on other countries for materials and supplies. We've done it before and could still revive it full measure. Must rebuild to ensure economic viability and stability. This ensures decisions we make at home independently are designed for self-support.

Let's do it a step at a time, beginning with the health of our countrymen. With physical health, we could ensure economic rebound with relative ease.

Reduction

How do we navigate the stormy sea of economic decrease here at home? It depends how soon the number of visitors from nearby countries fill the hotels here.

That the virus still thrives in nearby countries where visitors originate doesn't offer much hope that the strength of the industry would return by summer. This week international flights to the island were cancelled. History! Alternative?

LACK

From Page 10

land has an effective and efficient response so we can prevent the further spread, but that is not what we experienced."

That was Friday. Her results were in within 12 hours: negative. Relief.

But then there are those who don't meet the testing criteria, but believe they're experiencing symptoms, and they don't know what to do. It's terrifying and has had significant consequences on our country's collective mental health.

Contrast the U.S. response with that from South Korea, which is being hailed as a model in handling coronavirus. That country began mass producing test kits within weeks after the first case was confirmed and shipping thousands of them daily before they'd even reached 100 known cases. They tested more people than anyone else, isolating and treating individuals, rather than locking down entire regions. Still, even they were criticized for acting too late.

And yet, eight days after issuing social distancing guidelines, President Donald Trump was already talking about lifting them as early as next week amid concerns about the effect on the economy. "We're not going to let the cure be worse than the problem," Trump said Monday night during a press briefing.

We understand that coronavirus is having a catastrophic effect on businesses and individual incomes, as well as health, but if we pull back now, many, many more will die. Potentially millions, according to Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and one of the physicians on Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's coronavirus task force.

But we can't really say how bad it will get. Given our poor testing capabilities, we don't even know how bad it is.

With economic decrease comes the closure of struggling small businesses. We lose both the business and their employees who rely on their employer to provide for basic family needs. Unemployment shows its ugly face.

It definitely turns into a larger crisis. Without jobs how do families pay for the first family home, food and clothing? Though we may wish to help, recovery isn't likely for at least two years. It's one "long and winding road." Let's join hands and expedite help to our friends!

Health and education factor critically how scarce funds are distributed NMI-wide. The rest could be reduced to the lowest common denominator or shuttered altogether. Must not force hardworking taxpayers to shoulder excesses in these bad times!

Reality

Meanwhile, the virus falls within the realm of science. It turns into mucus when entering the respiratory system. How do you prevent it from blocking bronchioles in the lungs? See your family doctor if it happens!

Happy to note that we still don't have the virus here. And please listen and follow instructions from doctors how to stay clean while taking care of your hygiene. Please deal patiently with the elderly members of the family. It's the most vulnerable group!

Elsewhere

Businesses may decide to close down for two months or so. It instantly terminates the paychecks employees rely upon to pay for the first family home, family car, food, etc. It may delay spread of the virus but send families into serious losses that are far more

Medicare and coronavirus: What you need to know

Since older Americans are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus, or COVID-19, I wanted to let you know the steps we're taking to help our Medicare beneficiaries cope with the pandemic.

We're warning Medicare beneficiaries that scammers may try to use this emergency to steal their Medicare number, banking information, or other personal data.

Unfortunately, scammers come out of the woodwork during times of uncertainty and change. So make sure you give your Medicare number *only* to your doctor, pharmacist, hospital, health insurer, or other trusted healthcare provider.

If someone calls you on the phone, says they're from Medicare, and asks for your Medicare number or other personal information — just hang up.

Remember: Medicare *never* calls its beneficiaries to ask for or to "verify" Medicare numbers.

My agency finished removing Social Security numbers from all Medicare cards last year in order to reduce fraud and protect Medicare beneficiaries from identity theft. Even with this change, you should guard your Medicare card. Treat it like a credit card. Be sure to check your Medicare claim summaries for errors and questionable bills.

If you suspect Medicare fraud, please report it by calling Medicare's toll-free customer service center at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or by visiting www.medicare.gov/fraud.

I also want to inform you what Medicare covers with regard to coronavirus.

If your doctor orders a COVID-19 test for you, Medicare covers all of the costs. You should not have any cost-sharing.

Medicare also covers all medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes extra days in the hospital for in-patients who were on the verge of being discharged, but were diagnosed with COVID-19 and had to stay longer under quarantine.

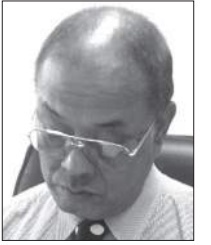
There's no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time. However, if one becomes available, Medicare will cover it.

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you have the same benefits as people with Original Medicare. Medicare Advantage plans are now required to have the same cost-sharing for COVID-19 lab tests as Original Medicare: zero.

Medicare also recently expanded its coverage of telehealth services to enable beneficiaries across the country to receive a

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

egregious than the infection. Meaningful discussion should help one and all.

Cancellation

The airline industry has also been adversely affected by the devastation wrought by the coronavirus. It has cut services that instantly paralyzed the visitor industry here. It's a clear indication that our mini-tourism industry would take a while longer to return to regular activities.

Vision

Policy is the vehicle employed to improve the quality of life of people in the villages. It's fiduciary duty for the elected elite.

In the U.S. Senate debate over the stimulus measure, a senator remarked, "Our country was founded by geniuses now run by a bunch of idiots." It's a perfect description of out-of-focus politicians. Magoo he feels strongly that we also have idiots here too.

By **SEEMA VERMA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Seema Verma is administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

wider range of healthcare services from doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility.

These changes allow beneficiaries to communicate with their doctors without having to physically go to a healthcare facility, thus

cutting their risk of acquiring or spreading the virus. And frontline clinicians will be better able to stay safe themselves while treating people with Medicare.

Doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers can deliver telehealth services via phone and video chat. Medicare beneficiaries can receive telehealth services in their home as well as in any healthcare facility, including a physician's office, hospital, nursing home, or rural health clinic.

Telehealth services include routine office visits, mental health counseling, and preventive health screenings for cancer and other illnesses.






By helping healthcare institutions across the nation offer medical services remotely, telehealth helps free up hospital emergency departments and doctors' offices to deal with the most urgent COVID-19 cases. For example, you can talk with a doctor about your diabetes management or prescription refill without having to go to his or her office.

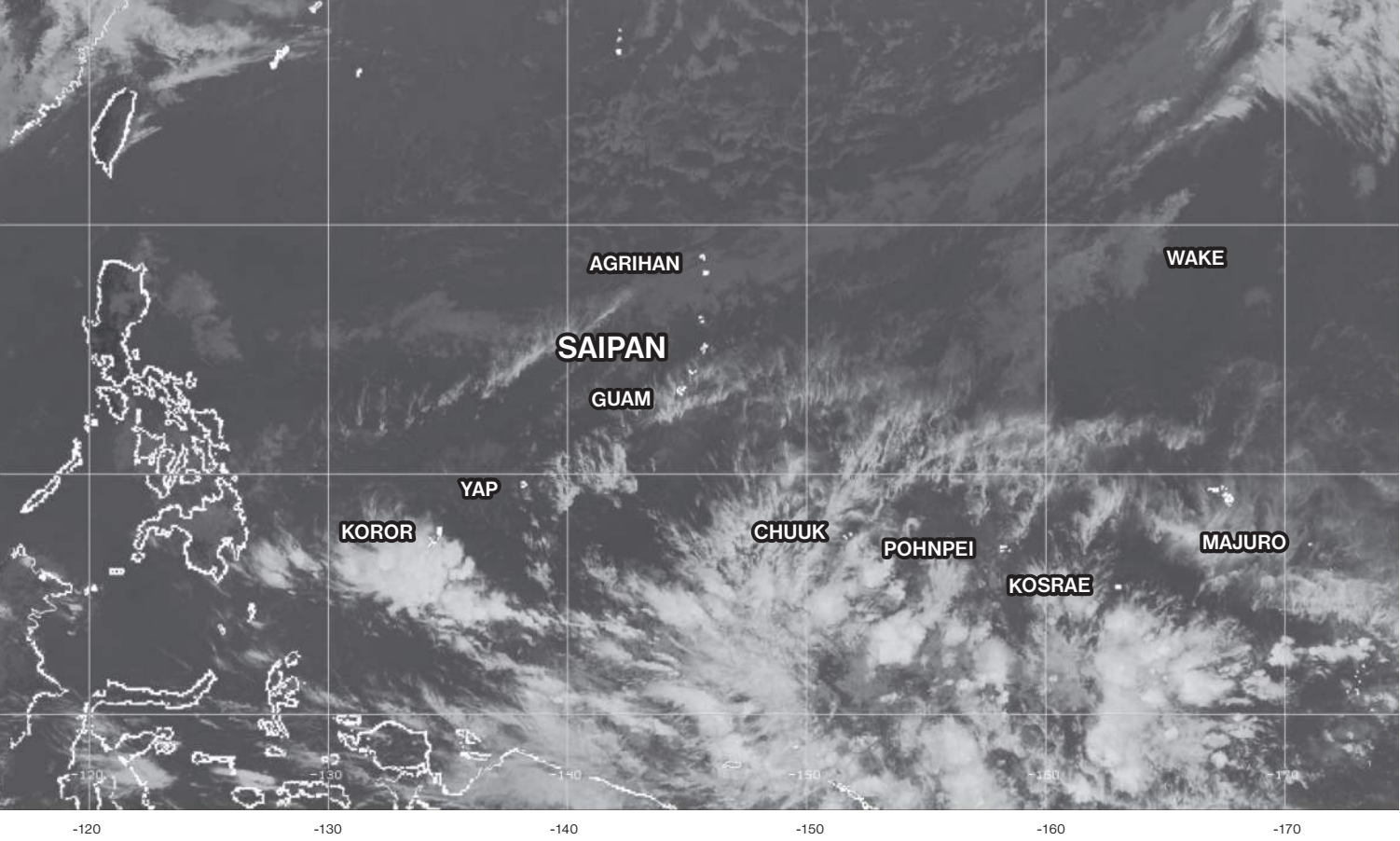
During this emergency, Medicare will pay for telehealth services at the same rates as in-person services, giving doctors and other clinicians an incentive to use this alternative and reserve their offices to treat those who truly require in-person care.

We know many Medicare beneficiaries are concerned about the spread of coronavirus and the threat it poses to their well-being. That's why we've taken these rapid steps to ensure that the Medicare program continues to protect our beneficiaries while maintaining trusted access to care in these uncertain times.

If you suspect Medicare fraud, call Medicare's toll-free customer service center at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or by visiting www.medicare.gov/fraud.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	
87°	78°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:48 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Relatively dry weather is expected through the forecast with only a few brief showers at best. Models show a shear line pushing over the Marianas by Friday. This will cause mostly cloudy skies through the weekend. A few weak trade-wind disturbances will continue to keep skies mostly cloudy through Monday night. Despite these weather features...deep layer moisture will be lacking and only isolated showers are expected at best. Model rainfall accumulation through next Wednesday total only up to a half an inch. East to northeast winds of 10 to 20 mph are predicted the next few days with brief periods of breezy conditions with gusts to 25 mph possible today through Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Windy	86° / 80°
Kosrae	Windy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:01 AM	8:45 PM	-
Saturday	8:39 AM	9:33 PM	-
Sunday	9:19 AM	10:24 PM	-
Monday	10:03 AM	11:17 PM	-
Tuesday	10:51 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F			
Auckland	Sunny	70° / 55°	
Beijing	Sunny	61° / 34°	
Hong Kong	Showers	73° / 68°	
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 69°	
London	Mostly Sunny	57° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	66° / 47°	
Manila	Sunny	97° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°	
Miami	Sunny	81° / 72°	
New York	Rain	56° / 43°	
Osaka	Rain	61° / 46°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	57° / 45°	
Busan	Cloudy	54° / 45°	
Rome	Showers	61° / 45°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	85° / 64°	
San Francisco	Sunny	62° / 49°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	55° / 32°	
Tokyo	Rain	70° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	71° / 50°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:28 AM	LOW TIDE	0.59
9:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72
3:48 PM	LOW TIDE	0.30
9:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 26, 2020

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6, 7
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Many businesses cautious about restarting economy amid virus

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—President Donald Trump wants the country open for business by mid-April, but some experts warn it's not as easy as flipping a switch: Economies run on confidence, and that is likely to be in short supply for as long as coronavirus cases in the United States are still rising.

Trump this week said he wants businesses "opened up and just raring to go by Easter," which falls on April 12. That contradicts many public health experts, who warn that restrictions should only be lifted gradually and once more data about infection rates is available. They expect efforts to curb the disease will continue for several months at least.

Despite wild swings in financial markets and signs that unemployment is surging—both of which could hurt Trump in an election year—many businesses say it's not clear that reopening will be even an option in a few weeks: They have to follow the orders set in each state, and many of those are open ended or could be extended at any time. They are worried that opening too soon could be seen as irresponsible. And even if they did reopen, would customers come if the virus isn't under control?

"He's not being realistic. How can you open if the cases are climbing day after day?" asked Paul Boutros, who owns East Side Pockets, a small restaurant that has lost most of its business since nearby Brown



AP
Paul Boutros, owner of East Side Pockets, a small restaurant near Brown University, looks out onto an empty street since students were sent home two weeks ago, Wednesday, March 25, 2020, in Providence, R.I.

University sent students home two weeks ago.

Business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business, are cautious. They say reopening is a call health experts will have to make; in the meantime, they're focused on getting financial help for businesses.

Some business leaders and workers, of course, back the idea of a shorter shutdown. In a weekend post on Twitter, former Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein said those at lower risk should return to

work in a few weeks.

"Extreme measures to flatten the virus 'curve' is sensible—for a time—to stretch out the strain on health infrastructure. But crushing the economy, jobs and morale is also a health issue—and beyond," he said.

Taggart Barron, who is in finance and is working from his home in Bentonville, Arkansas, during the outbreak, said he would go into the office more if he were allowed—and that would mean he would be spending more, too, like on lunches out.

"I worry about the human and economic impact of a forced shutdown with no defined end in sight," said Barron. "We are killing a fly with a missile."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo—whose dire warnings and sometimes scolding tone in his daily briefings have often made him a foil for Trump during the outbreak—has suggested a staged opening eventually. He said that perhaps younger people who appear to be less affected or people who had recovered from the virus—if scientists

are able to confirm that means they have immunity—could start to go back to work.

Cuomo said there was no need to "choose between a smart health strategy and smart economic strategy. We can do both and we must do both."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness and death.

In Europe, government and industry leaders are debating

the extent of the shutdown and which sectors are "essential." In Italy, which leads the world in deaths from the virus, the government is tightening its lockdown further, while French President Emmanuel Macron recently urged employees in key industries to continue showing up for work. Three months after the start of the outbreak in China, business has not yet returned to normal.

But as difficult as it was to shut down large parts of the American economy, restarting them may be even harder, especially if it happens while there is still uncertainty about the outbreak's trajectory. If a restart comes too early, it could also further fuel the pandemic, in which more than 20,000 people have already died globally.

Economic research on previous pandemics that weren't as severe has found that people voluntarily pulled back on shopping, travel and other activity to avoid exposure from crowds, according to Constance Hunter, chief economist at KPMG. So consumer spending would likely remain weak even if businesses largely reopened.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Partial highlights of a roughly \$2.2 trillion package to rush aid to businesses, workers and a health care system slammed by the coronavirus pandemic. The package, written by Trump administration officials and Democratic and Republican Senate leaders, was released late Wednesday night and unanimously approved by the Senate.

■ **Loans and guarantees** to businesses, state and local governments: \$500 billion. Includes up to \$50 billion for passenger airlines, \$8 billion for cargo carriers, \$17 billion for "businesses critical to maintaining national security." Companies accepting loans may not repurchase outstanding stock; must maintain their employment levels as of March 13, 2020 "to the extent practicable"; and bar raises for two years to executives earning over \$425,000 annually. Companies are not eligible for loans if top administration officials, members of Congress or their families have 20% control.

Highlights of Congress' massive virus economic relief plan

■ **Small businesses:** Includes \$350 billion in loans for companies with 500 employees or fewer, including nonprofits, self-employed people and hotel and restaurant chains with no more than 500 workers per location. Government provides eight weeks of cash assistance through loans to cover payroll, rent and other expenses, much of which would be forgiven if the company retains workers. Also \$17 billion to help small businesses repay existing loans; \$10 billion for grants up to \$10,000 for small businesses to pay operating costs.

■ **Emergency unemployment insurance:** \$260 billion. Includes extra 13 weeks of coverage for people who have exhausted existing benefits. Also covers part-time, self-employed, gig economy workers. Weekly benefit increase of up to \$600.

■ **Health care:** \$150 billion. Includes \$100 billion for grants to hospitals, public and nonprofit

health organizations and Medicare and Medicaid suppliers.

■ **Aid to state and local governments:** \$150 billion, with at least \$1.5 billion for smallest states.

■ **Direct payments to people:** One-time payments of \$1,200 per adult, \$2,400 per couple, \$500 per child. Amounts begin phasing out at \$75,000 for individuals, \$150,000 per couple.

■ **Tax breaks:** Temporarily waives penalties for virus-related early withdrawals and eases required minimum annual disbursements from some retirement accounts; increases deductions for charitable contributions. Employers who pay furloughed workers can get tax credits for some of those payments. Postpones business payments of payroll taxes until 2021 or 2022.

■ **Department of Homeland Security:** \$45 billion for a disaster relief fund to reimburse state and local govern-

ments for medical response, community services, other safety measures. Extends federal deadline for people getting driver's licenses with enhanced security features, called REAL ID, from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021.

■ **Education:** \$31 billion. Includes \$13.5 billion for states to distribute to local schools and programs, \$14 billion to help universities and colleges.

■ **Coronavirus treatments:** \$27 billion for research and development of vaccines and treatments, stockpiling medical supplies.

■ **Transportation:** Includes \$25 billion for public transit systems; \$10 billion for publicly owned commercial airports, intended to sustain 430,000 transit jobs; \$1 billion for Amtrak.

■ **Veterans:** \$20 billion, including \$16 billion for treating veterans at VA facilities; \$3 billion for temporary and mobile facilities.

■ **Food and agriculture:** \$15.5 billion for food stamps; \$14 billion for supporting farm income and crop prices; \$9.5 billion for specific producers including specialty crops, dairy and livestock; \$8.8 billion child nutrition. Money for food banks, farmers' markets.

■ **Defense:** \$10.5 billion for Defense Department, including \$1.5 billion to nearly triple the 4,300 beds currently in military hospitals; \$1.4 billion for states to deploy up to 20,000 members of National Guard for six months; \$1 billion under Defense Production Act to help private industry boost production of medical gear. Money cannot be used to build President Donald Trump's proposed wall along Mexican border.

■ **Social programs:** Includes \$3.5 billion in grants for child care and early education programs; \$1 billion in grants to help communities address local economic problems; \$900

million in heating, cooling aid for low-income families; \$750 million for extra staffing for Head Start programs.

■ **Economic aid to communities:** \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grants to help state and local governments expand health facilities, child care centers, food banks and senior services; \$4 billion in assistance for homeless people; \$3 billion for low-income renters; \$1.5 billion to help communities rebuild local industries including tourism, industry supply chains, business loans; \$300 million for fishing industry.

■ **Native American communities:** \$2 billion for health care, equipment schools and other needs.

■ **Diplomacy:** \$1.1 billion, including \$324 million to evacuate Americans and diplomats overseas; \$350 million to help refugees; \$258 million in international disaster aid; \$88 million for the Peace Corps to evacuate its volunteers abroad.

Nation

New York struggles with coronavirus, US deaths top 1,000

NEW YORK (AP)—New York authorities mobilized to head off a public health disaster Wednesday, with the city's emergence as the nation's biggest coronavirus hot spot a warning flare — and perhaps a cautionary tale — for the rest of the country as U.S. deaths from the pandemic topped 1,000.

A makeshift morgue was set up outside Bellevue Hospital, and the city's police, their ranks dwindling as more fall ill, were told to patrol nearly empty streets to enforce social distancing.

Public health officials hunted down beds and medical equipment and put out a call for more doctors and nurses for fear the number of sick will explode in a matter of weeks, overwhelming hospitals as has happened in Italy and Spain. Spanish lawmakers agreed to extending by two weeks a state of emergency that has allowed the government to maintain a national lockdown.

In Washington, the Senate in a unanimous, late-night vote passed an unparalleled \$2.2 trillion economic rescue package steering aid to businesses, workers and health care systems that is the largest economic relief bill in U.S. history. The House could pass it Friday.

Worldwide, the death toll climbed past 21,000, according to a running count kept



Patients wear personal protective equipment while maintaining social distancing as they wait in line for a COVID-19 test at Elmhurst Hospital Center, Wednesday, March 25, 2020, in New York.

by Johns Hopkins University. The number of dead in the U.S. rose to 1,041 as of late Wednesday, with nearly 70,000 infections.

New York State alone accounted for more than 30,000 cases and close to 300 deaths, most of them in New York City.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, again

pleading for help in dealing with the onslaught, attributed the cluster to the city's role as a gateway to international travelers and the sheer density of its population, with 8.6 million people sharing subways, elevators, apartment buildings and offices.

"Our closeness makes us vulnerable," he said. "But it's

true that your greatest weakness is also your greatest strength. And our closeness is what makes us who we are. That is what New York is."

Some public health experts also attributed the city's burgeoning caseload in part to the state's big push to test people.

Troy Tassier, a Fordham

University professor who studies economic epidemiology, suggested the increase shows New York would have fared better had it acted sooner to order social distancing.

Nearly 7 million people in the San Francisco area were all but confined to their homes on March 17, and California

put all 40 million of its residents under a near-lockdown three days later.

The order to stay at home in New York State did not go into effect until Sunday evening, March 22, and New York City's 1.1 million-student school system was not closed until March 15, well after other districts had shut down.

Dr. Mark Dworkin, an epidemiology professor at University of Illinois-Chicago, said he hadn't followed New York's situation closely enough to say whether he would have done it differently, but he noted that moving quickly is critical — and sometimes difficult to do at early points, when the public doesn't sense an imminent threat.

"At first, I think there's a certain amount of disbelief that goes on," he said. "I think that contributes, to some extent, to the lack of putting the foot on the gas pedal on some of the control measures that we know we need to do."

After New York's first positive test came back on March 1 — in a health care worker who had traveled to Iran and secluded herself upon returning — Mayor Bill de Blasio and Cuomo initially cast the disease as a dangerous threat but one that the city's muscular hospital system could handle.

The risk to most New Yorkers, they said, was relatively low.

Trump administration urged to free migrants as virus surges

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pressure was mounting on the Trump administration Wednesday to release people from immigration detention facilities where at least one detainee has tested positive for COVID-19 and advocates fear tight quarters and overall conditions could cause rapid spread of the virus.

The U.S. holds around 37,000 people in immigration detention. Detainees and advocates say many are vulnerable because of age and pre-existing medical conditions, and because they are often held in open rooms, beds 3-feet apart, and without adequate supplies of masks or other protections.

"It's impossible to stay calm," said Marco Battistotti, an Italian who is among 170 people detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Bristol County jail in Massachusetts. "People are panicking. People are in fear."

The 54-year-old Battistotti was among about 100 detainees at the county jail near Cape Cod who signed a letter

released by a local immigration lawyer detailing conditions inside. They asked to be released to await decisions on their immigration cases.

"I don't want to die in an ICE jail," he said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "Why can't I fight my case on the outside?"

The agency, which reported the positive test of a 31-year-old man from Mexico held in Bergen County, New Jersey, on Tuesday, has announced steps to protect detained migrants and staff from the virus, but hasn't said whether it plans to review cases for possible release because of the outbreak. It did not immediately respond to a request to comment on the complaints about conditions from the detainees and their advocates.

The administration has tried to balance its overall hard line on immigration, a signature policy of President Donald Trump, and its response to the outbreak, with ICE announcing previously that it would "temporarily adjust" operations to focus on apprehend-

ing people who pose a risk to public safety or are subject to mandatory detention because of a criminal record.

Immigrant advocates, including the American Civil Liberties Union, filed lawsuits in California, Maryland, Pennsylvania and elsewhere, seeking court orders for the immediate release of people in immigration detention, especially those at risk because of their age or medical conditions.

Advocates have also asked a court in Los Angeles to order the Office of Refugee Resettlement to release to eligible sponsors around 1,200 migrant children who were apprehended without parents or legal guardians and have been held in government-contracted shelters for more than 30 days. They said two staff members at two such facilities in New York have tested positive for COVID-19.

It's unclear how many immigration detainees overall are at higher risk, but one California suit alone had 13 plaintiffs, all over 55.

Some US leaders take 'do as I say, not as I do' virus stance

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department has advised against all international travel because of the coronavirus, but that didn't stop Secretary of State Mike Pompeo from flying to Afghanistan this week.

Gyms across the nation's capital are shuttered, but Sen. Rand Paul, an eye doctor, still managed a workout at the Senate on Sunday morning as he awaited the results of a coronavirus test. It came back positive.

The guidance against shaking hands? That hasn't always applied to President Donald Trump, whose penchant for pressing the flesh continued even after public health officials in his administration were warning that such bodily contact could facilitate the spread of the contagious virus. Practice social distancing? Daily White House briefings involve Trump and other senior officials crowded around a podium.

Even as the country has largely hunkered down, heeding the guidance of health experts and the directives of state leaders, some powerful people in Washington have

defied preventative measures aimed at curbing the spread. Their business-as-usual actions are at odds with the restrictions everyday Americans find themselves under, and with the government's own messaging.

Some human behavior experts say the "do as I say, not as I do" ethos seemingly on display is common among powerful officials, who may be inclined to think they don't have to follow rules for the general public in the same way or who can easily dissociate their own actions from what they say is best for others.

"When we have high power, we think of ourselves as exceptional as if the rules don't apply to us," said Maurice Schweitzer, a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania who has researched behavior and decision-making. "We're much more prone to do what we want because we don't feel constrained in the way that less powerful people do."

In Pompeo's case, the State Department says the unannounced trip—coming amid a

near-global travel shutdown—was necessary and urgent because of political turmoil in Afghanistan that U.S. officials fear could threaten a recent U.S.-Taliban peace deal that calls for American troop withdrawals. Pompeo left Kabul on Monday without being able to secure a power-sharing deal.

People traveling with Pompeo had their temperatures taken and were given bags containing a face mask, hand sanitizer, bleach wipes and mini-disposable thermometers. A State Department medical official told reporters Pompeo and his staff would not be quarantining themselves because Afghanistan is not considered a high-risk country for the virus and because Pompeo's movements on the trip were controlled.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Asia

New Zealand mosque gunman pleads guilty to murder, terrorism

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The man who committed the worst atrocity in New Zealand's modern history when he slaughtered 51 worshippers at two Christchurch mosques unexpectedly pleaded guilty to all charges Thursday.

The attacks targeting people praying at the mosques a year ago shocked the nation and prompted new laws banning the deadliest types of semi-automatic weapons. It also prompted global changes to social media protocols after the gunman livestreamed his attack on Facebook, where it was viewed by hundreds of thousands of people.

The sudden turn in the case took survivors and relatives by surprise, and brought relief to people across New Zealand. Many had feared Australian white supremacist Brenton Harrison Tarrant would try to use his trial as a platform to promote his views. He'd outlined those views in a 74-page manifesto he published online shortly before the attacks.

Tarrant, 29, pleaded guilty to 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and one count of terrorism at the Christchurch High Court. He had previously pleaded not guilty to all charges and his trial had been scheduled to start in June.

Tarrant is the first person to be found guilty of terrorism in New Zealand under laws passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S.

The change in plea came less than two weeks after New Zealanders commemorated those who died on the anniversary of the March 15, 2019, attacks.

"Honestly, I'm still trying to process what just happened," said Aya Al-Umari, whose brother Hussein was killed in the attack on the Al Noor mosque. "I feel conflicted."

She said that on the one hand, she had wanted to find out more details about what happened at the trial but on the other hand was feeling relieved about not having to face the trauma of sitting through it.

Temel Atacocugu, who survived being shot nine times during the attack at Al Noor, said he was surprised by the turn of events and hoped the judge would set an example at the sentencing by imposing the harshest punishment in the country's history and helping ensure nothing like it would happen again.

"I'm happy that he has accepted that he is guilty," Atacocugu said.



Travelers wearing masks line up to buy train tickets at a railway station in Yichang in central China's Hubei province Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

AP

China lifting last controls in province at outbreak's center

BEIJING (AP)—Trains carrying factory employees back to work after two months in locked-down cities rolled out of Hubei province, the center of China's virus outbreak, as the government on Wednesday began lifting the last of the controls that confined tens of millions of people to their homes.

Roadblocks on bridges and at expressway gates opened, allowing trucks and cars through for the first time in two months.

Residents of Wuhan, the provincial capital where the coronavirus emerged in December, are allowed out of the city but cannot leave Hubei until April 8. Restrictions that barred tens of millions of people from leaving other cities in Hubei since late February as China fought to contain the outbreak were lifted Wednesday.

As the United States and European countries tighten their own controls, China's

ruling Communist Party is relaxing restrictions to revive the economy after declaring victory over the outbreak.

Still, authorities have orders to prevent a spike in infections as millions of people return to work in Hubei or migrate to other provinces. Travelers were checked for the virus's telltale fever and are required to use smartphone apps that keep track of their health reports and whether they have been to risky areas.

A train left the previously locked-down city of Huanggang on Tuesday night carrying 1,133 factory workers back to jobs in Guangdong province, the center of China's export-driven manufacturing industries in the southeast, according to People's Daily, the main Communist Party newspaper.

Physicians were aboard to monitor the passengers and the train was due to travel non-stop to Guangzhou, the

Guangdong provincial capital, as a precaution. People's Daily said the workers would be met by buses to carry them directly to factories in Shenzhen and other cities.

"Resumption of labor and production is urgent!" the newspaper said.

Most access to Wuhan, a manufacturing center of 11 million people, or 1 1/2 times the population of New York City, was shut down Feb. 23. The city is 700 kilometers (450 miles) west of Shanghai.

Restrictions that would expand to become the most intensive anti-disease controls ever imposed spread to Huanggang and the nearby cities of Ezhou, Chibi, Qianjiang, Zhijiang, Jingmen, Xiantao, Xiaogan and Huangshi.

At the peak of China's restrictions, some 700 million people were in areas covered by orders or official requests to stay home and limit activity.

That left streets in Beijing and other major cities empty and eerily silent. Police stopped pedestrians and told them to go home.

Other governments including Italy, Spain and Malaysia have imposed similar controls, closing regions or national borders, as the virus spread around the globe.

In Hubei, authorities began allowing factories, food processors and some other businesses that were deemed essential to reopen on March 11 in a sign of official confidence the disease was under control.

The shutdowns in Hubei, central China's manufacturing center, disrupted smartphone, auto and other major industries.

There is no word on when schools, which have been teaching online and through social media, might reopen in Hubei.

"We still feel it is not the right time to resume classes,"

said Li Zhen, a teacher at the Yingshan County Experimental School in Huanggang.

Once they reopen, teachers expect schools to screen visitors and "slow down the process of teaching a little bit to let the students catch up to the rhythm of study in the classroom after being away for months," Li said.

On the Laishui River, the 400-meter (quarter-mile) Hunan-Eqing Bridge that links Hubei with neighboring Hunan province reopened before dawn Wednesday, according to the Chutian Metropolis Daily.

Drivers leaving Hubei were checked for fever and had to show a "green health code" on the tracking app, indicating they had avoided high-risk areas.

"You can breathe a little sigh of relief," the newspaper quoted a police officer, Tian Gang, as saying. It said he has been away from home for 50 days.

Police struggle to enforce India's sweeping virus lockdown

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indians struggled to comply with the world's largest coronavirus lockdown on Wednesday as the government began the gargantuan task of keeping 1.3 billion people indoors.

Official assurances that essentials wouldn't run out clashed with people's fears that the disease toll could soon worsen, gutting food and other critical supplies.

In five days, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, has jumped from about 200 to 519, and experts say the real toll is likely

to be much higher because of insufficient testing.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a three-week countrywide lockdown covering nearly one-fifth of the world's population "to save India and Indians."

He said the lockdown would be "total," but officials after his speech released advisories explaining that medical, law enforcement, media and other sectors were exempted and that stores selling food and other essentials would remain open.

Television images from many cities and towns on Wednesday showed shuttered markets and

offices. Normally bustling railway stations stood empty. Joggers awkwardly avoided each other to maintain safe distances.

Still, Modi's speech triggered panic buying as online retailers Amazon and Big Basket, an Indian grocery delivery service, began canceling previously placed orders and said they had no delivery slots available. That spurred people to risk fines and other penalties for violating the lockdown by going out to shop at local stores.

Social distancing was forgotten at a grocery store in the Nizamuddin neighborhood of New Delhi as panicked

residents swarmed inside and jostled with each other to get fast-disappearing supplies.

An elderly couple who waited to enter the shop for nearly 30 minutes eventually returned home empty-handed.

Although the lockdown made provisions for people to leave their homes to buy food, TV news and social media showed police striking would-be shoppers in the streets with batons in the southern state of Kerala, the financial hub of Mumbai and New Delhi.

Alok Barman, a servant who works in several well-to-do south Delhi households,

said he was beaten up by police when he ventured outside his home in the city's outskirts.

"Some homes that I work in paid me some money and I thought it was best to get some food in the house. But the police attacked us with sticks and beat us," he said. "Now we have nothing to eat."

Tarique Anwar, a former banker, said he went out to buy milk and vegetables at a grocery store in Delhi's Jamia Nagar neighborhood when he was confronted by a group of policemen who ordered him to go back. He only managed to get vegetables.

World

WASHINGTON (AP)—Foreign ministers from the Group of 7 leading industrialized democracies sparred Wednesday over whether to call out China as the source of the coronavirus pandemic.

Meeting by video conference because of the outbreak, the ministers agreed on the need for joint efforts to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus, which causes a disease being called COVID-19. But U.S. and European diplomats said the ministers were unable to agree on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's call for the virus to be identified by name as the "Wuhan virus."

As a result, just a day after G-7 finance ministers and central bankers issued a joint communique referring to the COVID-19 virus, the foreign ministers opted against releasing a group statement. U.S. officials pointed to Tuesday's finance ministers' statement to reject suggestions of G-7 disunity and said the foreign ministers had never intended to release their own communique.

European officials said Pompeo had insisted on identifying the COVID-19 virus as the "Wuhan virus" even though the World Health Organization and others have cautioned against giving it a geographic name because of its global nature. In recent weeks, Pompeo has stepped up his use of "Wuhan virus," accusing China of putting the world at risk by not revealing more details about the outbreak, which was first reported in the city of Wuhan.

President Donald Trump had until very recently frequently referred to the novel coronavirus as the "China virus" or the "Chinese virus,"

Canada imposes mandatory self-isolation for those returning

TORONTO (AP)—Canada imposed mandatory self-isolation Wednesday for those returning to Canada under the Quarantine Act.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland initially said the system would begin at midnight Wednesday and require 14 days of isolation. But several hours later, government officials said the quarantine order had been in effect for more than 12 hours already.

"It will be a legal obligation for people entering Canada from outside Canada," Freeland said. "Essential workers are excluded."

Freeland said penalties would be announced later.

More than a million Canadians and permanent residents returned to Canada between March 14 to March 20, according to Canada Border Services.



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a news conference at the State Department on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, in Washington.

AP

G-7 foreign ministers spar over coronavirus amid pandemic

but since the beginning of this week has steered away from those terms as critics have said they foster discriminatory sentiments and behavior against Asians and Asian Americans.

In a solo news conference after the meeting, Pompeo again referred to the "Wuhan virus," saying it was "the most pressing agenda item." He said all the foreign ministers had "committed to fighting (it) with transparency, as is necessary all around the world." He did not deny there had been disagreements over what to call the virus, but said all the ministers had acknowledged

that China had not been forthcoming about its details early on and was now trying to shift the narrative about it.

"Every one of the nations that was at that meeting this morning was deeply aware of the disinformation campaign that the Chinese Communist Party is engaged in to try and deflect from what has really taken place here," Pompeo said.

Other foreign ministers were not nearly as emphatic in their own comments about the meeting, with at least one leaving open the suggestion that China is not the only country trying to use the outbreak to advance political points.

lose their income as a result of the pandemic.

Trudeau said Canada is facing a once in a generation challenge and noted a million Canadians applied for employment insurance in a week.

"Help is on the way," Trudeau said.

Trudeau said if a Canadian loses their job because of COVID-19—whether they are full-time, contract or self-employed—the new benefit is available. He said it also covers a person who is sick or quarantined, or looking after someone sick. Workers still employed but not receiving income because of the crisis are eligible.

His government also it would implemented long-promised tax credits for newspapers where they can claim on up to 25% of wages.

Trudeau made the remarks

French Foreign Minister Yves Le Drian said in a statement that he had "underscored the need to combat any attempt to exploit the crisis for political purposes and expressed the view that the unity of all in order to effectively combat the pandemic must now take precedence over any other considerations."

The disagreement over the virus terminology was first reported by the German publication Der Spiegel. German officials said they were more concerned about what would come from a virtual summit of the Group of 20 nations leaders that is supposed to be held

outside his residence, where he is in isolation after his wife tested positive for the virus. He says his wife is doing "much much better" and he and his kids have no symptoms.

Canada is now testing 10,000 people a day and has tested more than 142,000 people. Canada has more than 3,336 confirmed cases and at least 35 deaths.

In the Atlantic Coast province of Newfoundland, 44 of the province's 67 cases are linked to a funeral home in St. John's, where an individual who tested positive attended visitations at some point between March 15 and 17.

The Pacific Coast province of British Columbia government, meanwhile, is suspending evictions and offering a \$500 monthly rebate to help renters and landlords during the COVID-19 pandemic.

on Thursday at the request of Saudi Arabia.

U.S. officials meanwhile downplayed the disagreement among the foreign ministers and pointed to the G-7 finance

ministers' statement from Tuesday that did not mention either "Wuhan" or "China" in relation to the virus and instead referred to it repeatedly as the COVID-19 virus.

Mexican governor says poor are 'immune' to coronavirus

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The governor of a state in central Mexico is arguing that the poor are "immune" to the new coronavirus, even as the federal government suspends all nonessential government activities beginning Thursday in a bid to prevent the spread of the virus.

Puebla Gov. Miguel Barbosa's comment Wednesday was apparently partly a response to indications that the wealthy have made up a significant percentage of Mexicans infected to date, including some prominent business executives.

Officials say three-quarters of Mexico's 475 confirmed cases are related to international travel, and the poor do not make many international trips. Some people apparently caught the virus on ski trips to Italy or the United States. The country has seen six deaths so far.

"The majority are wealthy people. If you are rich, you are at risk. If you are poor, no," Barbosa said of the coronavirus. "We poor people, we are immune."

Barbosa also appeared to be playing on an old stereo-

type held by some Mexicans that poor sanitation standards may have strengthened their immune systems by exposing them to bacteria or other bugs.

There is no scientific evidence to suggest the poor are in any way immune to the virus that is causing COVID-19 disease around the world.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Some are taking the pandemic more seriously.

On Wednesday, deputy health secretary Hugo López-Gatell announced that "starting tomorrow, the federal government will suspend all its activities, but there are essential activities that cannot be suspended."

He mentioned hospitals, fuel production, electrical power, public sanitation and law enforcement as part of the essential services that won't be suspended.

Off The Wall

Cheap fares luring travelers to fly despite pandemic

By **RUSS BYNUM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the coronavirus pandemic escalating in the U.S. and overseas, Dylcia McBlackwell couldn't justify taking a single spring vacation. Air fares were so cheap, she decided to book three.

Now the 39-year-old food service worker from Chicago has tickets to fly to Denver to visit friends next month followed by a May trip to Charleston, South Carolina. After that, she's booked a flight to Costa Rica. All for a combined total of \$435 for trips that might normally cost \$700 or more.

"You have just one life to live," said McBlackwell, who plans to bring wipes to disinfect the tray tables in front of her airplane seats, and perhaps her own snacks. "Are you going to spend



AP
In this Saturday, March 14, 2020 file photo, travelers wait to check in their luggage at the Los Angeles International Airport.

to Orlando for just \$65.

"I was in Muncie for less than 48 hours," said Williams, who hopped right back onto a plane to Florida. "I felt a little crazy doing it. But those opportunities don't always arise."

Williams isn't oblivious to the coronavirus. Since his Florida trips, Ball State has canceled in-person classes for the rest of the spring semester. Courses will still be held online, but Williams said the campus seems eerily quiet. Unafraid to fly domestically, he's ruled out overseas trips for now.

And cheap fares aren't expected to overcome many travelers' fears.

"If you are scared of flying, you are probably scared at any price," Delta President Glen Hauenstein said recently.

Asked about younger travelers taking advantage of cheap airfares, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams told reporters Thursday that those visiting countries where coronavirus is spreading should avoid contact with older relatives and family with chronic medical conditions for 14 days after returning.

Customers cheer after woman gives birth at Missouri Walmart

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—Customers cheered at a Walmart in Missouri after a woman gave birth to a baby girl in the store's toilet paper aisle.

Jessica Hinkle, manager of the store in Springfield, said the woman told employees Wednesday that her water broke. Hinkle held up a sheet for privacy while a labor nurse who happened to be in the store and firefighters helped the woman deliver her baby in just 45 minutes, KYTV reported.

Customers encouraged the woman throughout the birth and cheered as she and the baby were taken away to an ambulance. The birth took place as shoppers nationwide are converging on stores to stockpile toilet paper and other basics amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"You know a feel good moment, everybody's going through so much and with a baby it's like everything comes full circle," Hinkle said.

Hinkle said she contacted the woman Thursday and both mom and baby are doing well. The woman's name wasn't released.

I'm "not like the best with blood so that was my job, holding the sheet and crowd control making sure that nobody invaded what privacy the poor lady still had," Hinkle said.

it sitting in your house scared? I'd rather be out enjoying it."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Regardless, airlines are see-

ing bookings plummet and cancellations soar as fear of infection causes many Americans to avoid flying. Travel to the U.S. has been barred from most of Europe, China and Iran. Domestically, business conferences, sporting events, music festivals and other large public gatherings have been scrapped or postponed.

Airlines have been slashing flight schedules, especially

on international routes, to cope with downward-spiraling demand from fearful leisure customers and a slowdown in business travel. One industry trade group has warned the pandemic could cost airlines worldwide up to \$113 billion in revenue.

The proliferation of empty airline seats has some travelers making spur-of-the-moment ticket purchases to take advantage of steeply discounted prices.

"Travel is one of my favorite things to do and I'm always looking at flights to different places," said Nick Williams of Muncie, Indiana. "I have never seen flights this cheap before."

During his recent spring break, the 22-year-old Ball State University student paid \$110 round trip to visit friends in Orlando, Florida. As soon as he returned to Indiana, he spotted a weekend fare back

End of telegraph era brings question: What's a telegraph?

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—The telegraph era in Florida is ending without a flash. Not even a flicker, really.

It's more like a snicker.

The Florida Senate sent Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis a bill Thursday that removes an entire chapter of state law regulating the telegraph industry, including \$50 penalties for not promptly delivering messages.

In the days before hashtags, texts and FaceTime chats, telegraphs were a big deal. Western Union completed the first transcontinental telegraph line in 1861, dealing a death blow to the struggling Pony Express, which began operations the year before.

Florida laws regarding telegraphs haven't had any substantial changes since 1913, and there haven't been any court opinions involving the statutes since 1945, according to a legislative staff analysis.

And when Republican Sen. Ben Albritton presented his bill Thursday, his colleagues couldn't resist having a little

fun just before he presented his closing arguments for the legislation.

"There are a number of school-age children in the West Gallery, so if Senator Albritton in his close can address what telegraphs are," said Democratic Jason Pizzo.

Democratic Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez quickly piled on.

"There are also middle-aged people in the entire Capitol. Can you also explain to us what a telegraph is?" Rodriguez said.

Stifling his laughter, Albritton carried on.

"I appreciate the opportunity to clarify what telegraphs were. Just Google it," Albritton said. "Next year we're going after carrier pigeons and Morse code."

The bill passed unanimously. If DeSantis signs the bill, the telegraph regulations will be removed from law on July 1.

Until then, telegraph operators can still be held liable for any mental anguish or physical suffering caused by a delayed delivery of a message.

Swiss gruyere named best in world cheese competition

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A gruyere from Switzerland has been named the world's best cheese, chosen from a record number of entrants from 26 nations in the World Championship Cheese Contest in Wisconsin.

The cheese from Bern, Switzerland made its maker, Michael Spycher of Mountain Dairy Fritzenhaus, a two-time winner. Spycher also won in 2008.

Another product from Switzerland, a hard cheese made from cow's milk called Gallus Grand CRU and made by Hardegger Kase AG, was runner-

up Thursday, the Wisconsin State Journal reported.

The contest is the largest technical cheese, butter and yogurt competition in the world and started Tuesday in Madison with a record 3,667 entries.

The 55 judges taste, sniff and inspect the 132 classes of dairy products during the biennial contest. The judges include cheese graders, cheese buyers, dairy science professors, and researchers from 19 nations and 14 states.

The last time the competition was held in 2018, a hard sheep's milk cheese called

Esquirrou made in France at Mauleon Fromagerie won top honors. It is imported by Savencia Cheese USA.

One judge and 30 people from a Japanese university could not attend because the university didn't allow international travel due to the new coronavirus, organizers said.

Three Wisconsin cheeses were finalists. A smoked gouda with cumin from Marieke Gouda of Thorp, a gorgonzola from Emmi Roth of Seymour and a cheddar from Maple Leaf Cheesemakers of Monroe all made the top 20.

'Sea calf' born to cow that swam to shore after hurricane

BEAUFORT, N.C. (AP)—A pregnant cow who swam 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) to shore after being swept away by Hurricane Dorian in September has given birth to a "miracle" calf.

A photo of the "sea calf" was posted Monday on Facebook by Ranch Solutions, a group hired to return the pregnant cow back home to North Carolina's Cedar Island, 350 miles (560 kilometers) east of Charlotte.

The cow, Dori, was one of three swept away by Dorian that were found in the state's Outer Banks, The Charlotte Observer reported.

The calf has one brown and one blue eye, Ranch Solutions said. Having differently colored eyes is a rare condition shared by various animals, including some wild horses.

Getting close to the mother and calf for a photo has been difficult, because they run at

the sight of humans, Cedar Island resident Woody Hancock told McClatchy News group. "The wild cattle that lived on Cedar Island were not used to seeing humans or having them approach them," the state's National Park Service said.

When Hurricane Dorian generated an 8-foot (2-meter) "mini tsunami," it washed the calf's mother and dozens of other animals away, including 28 wild horses that died.

Science & Technology

Home internet jammed up? Try these steps before upgrading

By FRANK BAJAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With so much of the U.S. workforce—and their families—now cooped up at home to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus, it's not a huge surprise that home internet is showing the strain.

If you've had a business videoconference stutter while your teenagers play Call of Duty online, or found yourself unable to stream the news while your spouse uploads huge data files for work, you'll have a good idea of the problem.

Is there a bandwidth problem?

The internet's core is managing the spike in traffic just fine, experts say. It has massive capacity to handle Netflix, YouTube, Zoom and other streaming services.

True, Netflix has just throttled down its video quality in Europe at the request of authorities there. But the company already stores its programs on servers close to

users' homes already, and there's no evidence that it's clogging networks.

If the internet is so sturdy, why does my home connection stutter?

The problem partly lies in the so-called "last mile," the link that connects your home to the ultra-high speed internet backbone.

Most U.S. homes get their internet from cable companies and thus connect to the broader network via coaxial cable, a legacy of the cable TV era. These connections provide faster "downstream" speeds to your home than "upstream" speeds back to the internet. Since videoconferencing sends equal amounts of data both ways, simultaneous sessions can clog the upstream channel and disrupt service for the entire household.

If that happens, one quick solution is to have some family members switch to audio-only, which conserves bandwidth.

This also applies to anyone in multiplayer online games, where—per a wag on Twitter—the banter between players often resembles conference calls with occasional shooting.

You could also order a service upgrade, although that might not be strictly necessary. Some providers are temporarily offering more bandwidth, particularly for families with school-age children, in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Others have dropped service caps that charge extra when data usage passes a certain threshold.

The relatively few U.S. households with their own direct fiber-optic connections have the same bandwidth in both directions and shouldn't experience serious hiccups.

Does my home network need an upgrade?

It might. Start with your internet modem, the device that most likely has a coax cable connecting it to your wall. Your internet provider

often rents the modem to you.

If it's several years old, it's probably time to ask your provider if upgrading the modem's internal software, or replacing the modem entirely, will help. Older modems often can't deliver the full bandwidth you're paying for to your household.

Next up is your Wi-Fi router. If you have cable, it may be built into your modem. If you haven't already, try moving it to a more central location in your home or apartment; that will ensure bandwidth is distributed more equally.

Or you can add more access points and distribute Wi-Fi with a "mesh" network. Newer routers let you add several satellite stations that boost your signal throughout the house, though you might have to arrange that with your provider.

One more possibility: You can connect some devices directly to the router with ethernet cables instead of using Wi-Fi. This may improve the performance of videoconferencing.

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Sending iPhone pics to a voice-run Echo Show

Q My sister, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease and doesn't have a phone, recently got an Amazon Echo Show that plays music and shows photos in response to voice commands. Is there a way that I can download pictures from my iPhone or computer to my sister's Echo Show?

A Get the free Amazon Photos app (formerly called the Prime Photos app) for your iPhone.

Once you have the app, you can use it to upload photos from your iPhone to the online Amazon Photos account that's being used by the Echo Show (such an account is free for storing up to 5 gigabytes of photos.) The photos you upload to the account can then be viewed on the Echo Show. (You can also get the Amazon Photos app for Windows (free, see tinyurl.com/yys3jxva) or Mac (\$60, tinyurl.com/t93qfeu).

To make it work, you will need to obtain the username and password of the Echo Show's Amazon Photos account. Then, after you have uploaded the photos, your sister can access them on the Echo Show via its voice-activated Alexa digital assistant. If your sister says, "Alexa, show my photos," the photos will be displayed as a slide show (see tinyurl.com/wt9zpepv).

You can also limit the slide show to only some of the online photos. To do that, put the photos you want your sister to see in a separate folder (called an "album") in the online account, and give the folder a name, such as "California Trip." To start a slide show of only those photos, your sister should say, "Alexa, show my California Trip album."

Update: Last week, I told a user of the Mac Catalina operating system to sync his iPod with his Mac via the Finder app rather than iTunes (see tinyurl.com/we4z94d). Reader Bruce Purnell agreed, but he said it may first be necessary to change the "preferences" in Finder or the "permissions" in the Mac's Home Folder (for details, see tinyurl.com/rt7sb8g).

Q My 6-year-old Mac mini ran fine until I upgraded the operating system to Catalina, or version 10.15.3. Then the Mac began restarting when I tried to shut it down. The Apple Store reloaded the Mac OS twice, but it didn't solve the problem. Diagnostic tests don't show a hardware problem, but the operating system has suffered a "kernel panic." What should I do?

A The operating system upgrade probably caused the shutdown problem. Try these system resets:

- Reset the System Management Controller (SMC) which runs several pieces of hardware, including the Mac's power button. Shut the Mac down, then disconnect the power cord for 15 seconds. Plug the cord back in, wait five seconds and restart the Mac.

- Reset the Nonvolatile Random-Access Memory, or NVRAM (see tinyurl.com/rmvgcd5). It stores several types of Mac data, including details of a recent "kernel panic," a problem in the main part of the OS that causes a restart. (Read more about kernel panic at tinyurl.com/vr6xmssc).

If the resets don't solve the problem, you can either reinstall the latest operating system (see tinyurl.com/t27smdp) or downgrade to an earlier version (see tinyurl.com/urm5kmw).

Social distancing during the coronavirus? Try banking online

By CHANELLE BESSETTE
NERDWALLET

If the coronavirus has you self-isolating, you're likely more concerned about staying in touch with loved ones and carefully planning your grocery excursions than about changing your money routine.

But if you're concerned about how to do your everyday financial tasks from home, consider starting to bank online—especially if your bank has temporarily closed its locations. Handling your finances remotely can be convenient even after you feel safe returning to a branch.

"It's everyone's responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19," says Richard Crone, a payments expert and CEO of Crone Consulting, LLC. "For the safety of consumers, the bank staff, all our families and the community, nobody should be walking into a branch. Financial services can all be obtained digitally. It's a risk we don't have to take."

What is online banking?

Online banking lets you manage your accounts through your desktop or mobile devices. You can typically perform tasks such as transferring funds, paying bills, depositing checks and checking your account balances.

If you have questions that you need a human to answer, you can usually reach out to the bank's customer service reps via phone, social media, email or online chat as well.

There are many online-only banks, but these days, most brick-and-mortar banks also have on-

line services their customers can use from home (or elsewhere). Banking apps and bank websites allow customers to log in securely to view and manage their account balances from anywhere they have the internet.

Is online banking safe?

Banking sites and apps take many steps to keep your money secure. Mobile banking apps often offer two-factor authentication, which requires you to login with your password as well as an additional code sent via email, call or text. Smartphone logins

can be protected with passwords and sometimes biometric measures, like fingerprints or face recognition. Apple users, for example, can set up Face ID on their iPhones so that the device has to recognize the user's face before they can sign in to a banking app. Bank websites also encrypt your data to prevent third parties from accessing it.

These mobile safety features can make other financial tasks simple and secure as well, such as using your smartphone's wallet app to make contactless payments.

Science Matters

A pod of orcas, their skins yellowed by algae, observed from a drone

Sperm whale
Blue whale
Orca

Their irritating plant neighbors

Phytoplankton (microalgae) are tiny floating plants in the upper, sunlit parts of the ocean

In the cold Southern Ocean, they grow on the skins of whales, which can not shed their skin layers often enough there

Mother orca coated with yellow algae swims with her calf

Water temp.
86°F/30°C
30°F/-2°C

19th century whalers observed whales swim long distances from polar waters to the tropics for calving

However, whales are able to calve in cold polar waters, and most migrating whales fast for months because food is scarce in warm seas

In warmer water, their body heat is easier to maintain, and whales can revive their skin metabolism and molt; they calve there because predators are fewer

Life & Style

Chef Floyd Cardoz dies at 59 of coronavirus complications

NEW YORK (AP)—Chef Floyd Cardoz, who competed on “Top Chef,” won “Top Chef Masters” and operated successful restaurants in both India and New York, died Wednesday of complications from the coronavirus, his company said in a statement. He was 59.

Cardoz had traveled from Mumbai to New York through Frankfurt, Germany, on March 8. He was admitted a week ago

to Mountainside Medical Center in Montclair, New Jersey, with a fever and subsequently tested positive for Covid-19, the statement said.

The committed advocate of making the food industry more sustainable began his hospitality training in his native Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay. He later moved to Switzerland, where he honed his skills in French, Italian and Indian cui-

sine before moving on to the kitchens of New York City.

He was a partner in Bombay Sweet Shop, O Pedro and The Bombay Canteen in India at the time of his death.

The Indian-American partnered with famed restaurateur Danny Meyer’s Union Square Hospitality Group to open Tabla in 1997. The Manhattan spot was praised by critics. It closed in 2010.

Cardoz’s death was mourned by famous friends in both the restaurant and television industries.

“Love you so much @floyd-cardoz,” Meyer tweeted, calling him a “beautiful human being.”

The two worked together for 17 years. At Tabla, they celebrated Cardoz’s new Indian cuisine that melded the sensual flavors and spices of his homeland with Western techniques.

Padma Lakshmi, host of the Bravo cooking competition series “Top Chef,” praised the success of Tabla and offered condolences to Cardoz’s loved



This Aug. 4, 2014 file photo shows chef Floyd Cardoz at “The Hundred-Foot Journey” premiere in New York. AP

ones, including his wife and business partner, Barkha.

“He had an impish smile, an innate need to make those around him happy, and a delicious touch,” Lakshmi tweeted.

The Twitter account for “Top Chef” offered condolences and called Cardoz an “inspiration to chefs around the world.”

In 2011, Cardoz competed in and won Season 3 of “Top Chef Masters.” He used his \$110,000 in winnings to support the Young Scientist Cancer Research Fund at New York’s Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Loughlin, Giannulli: College bribery charges must be tossed

BOSTON (AP)—“Full House” Actress Lori Loughlin, her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, and other prominent parents urged a judge Wednesday to dismiss charges against them in the college admissions bribery case, accusing prosecutors of “extraordinary” misconduct.

Defense attorneys for the the famous couple and other parents still fighting the charges say the case cannot

stand because investigators bullied their informant into lying and then concealed evidence that would bolster the parents’ claims of innocence.

“The extraordinary government misconduct presented in this case threatens grave harm to defendants and the integrity of this proceeding. That misconduct cannot be ignored,” the lawyers wrote.

The U.S. attorney’s office in Boston declined Wednes-

day to comment.

Loughlin and Giannulli are scheduled to go on trial in October on charges that they paid \$500,000 to get their daughters into the University of Southern California as crew recruits even though neither girl was a rower. Prosecutors say they snapped photos of the girls sitting on rowing machines to help make fake athletic profiles that portrayed them as star athletes.

Recording Registry adds ‘Wichita Lineman,’ album by Dr. Dre

NEW YORK (AP)—Dr. Dre’s classic debut rap album “The Chronic,” Selena’s sophomore release “Ven Conmigo” and the worldwide disco hit “Y.M.C.A.” by the Village People are among 25 recordings being inducted to the National Recording Registry.

The Library of Congress announced Wednesday that Tina Turner’s “Private Dancer,” Glen Campbell’s “Wichita Lineman”—written by Jimmy Webb—and Whitney Houston’s No. 1 hit and cover of

Dolly Parton’s “I Will Always Love You” are some of the titles tapped for preservation this year.

The library selects titles for preservation because of their cultural and historic importance to the American soundscape. The titles have to be at least 10 years old.

Others that made the list include Russ Hodges’ play-by-play of the National League tiebreaker between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1951;

the original 1964 Broadway cast recording of “Fiddler on the Roof”; the announcement of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy by the Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor during the recording of a live performance on Nov. 22, 1963; songs from “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood”; field recordings of over 50 hours of traditional Afghan music; and albums by Dusty Springfield, Cheap Trick and Maria Schneider.

Judge: Tekashi 6ix9ine probably belongs at home, not jail

NEW YORK (AP)—The judge who sentenced the rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine to prison said Wednesday he would have ordered home confinement instead if he had known about the coronavirus in December.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer commented in a written order even as he rejected a lawyer’s request that the 23-year-old performer, whose real name is Daniel Hernandez, be confined at home for the remaining four months of his two-year prison term.

He said he didn’t have legal authority to change the sentence, which prosecutors pointed out when they opposed the request.

But he added that he was issuing “instructive guidance” that the Bureau of Prisons can use if it considers an application by Tekashi 6ix9ine for early release to home confinement.

He cited Tekashi 6ix9ine’s heightened vulnerability to the virus because he has asthma.

Engelmayer said he “could not have known that the final

four months of Mr. Hernandez’s sentence would be served at a time of a worldwide pandemic to which persons with asthma, like Mr. Hernandez, have heightened vulnerability.”

He added: “Had the Court known that sentencing Mr. Hernandez to serve the final four months of his term in a federal prison would have exposed him to a heightened health risk, the Court would have directed that these four months be served instead in home confinement.”

Parents still in the dark about sibling’s sexual abuse

DEAR ABBY: I was sexually abused by a sibling for 10 years during my childhood. I never told anyone what happened to me until I confided in my fiancé after we were engaged. I have gone through counseling sessions and am at a place in my life where I am happy and healthy.

Currently, I have a relationship with my parents, but not with my sibling. My parents often express their wish for me to have a relationship with my sibling, but I always refuse. I feel that telling them what happened at this point would only cause hurt for them. But I also feel that if I tell them, I can stop getting asked uncomfortable questions. What do you suggest?

SURVIVOR IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR SURVIVOR: I suggest you tell your parents everything. It’s something you should have done years ago. Do not worry about hurting them. Once they have all the facts, they will understand why you want nothing to do with your sibling and stop pushing you to have a relationship with your abuser, and that’s the goal.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with a man for five years, and we are deeply in love. We want to spend the rest of our lives together, but it bothers me that he wants to go into the military for three to five years. He says he wants me to wait for him, but three to five years seems like a lifetime to me. I

can’t help but feel like he is prioritizing his desire to serve his country over me and years of our life together.

CIVILIAN IN THE EAST

DEAR CIVILIAN: It would be interesting to know how old you and your boyfriend are. I assume you are both young and graduating from high school.

This is not necessarily a question of where his priorities lie. While three to five years seems like a large chunk of time, the military may provide your boyfriend with the chance to decide what he wants to do career-wise with his life. It would also provide benefits that could positively affect his future—and yours—once his term of service is finished. If you feel unable to wait for him, you should let him go.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is 88 and in a nursing home. While cleaning out her apartment, I found her will. With it there was a handwritten note stating that my son should get my mother’s diamond ring. The ring is unique and special. The note specifically said that my sister’s kids should not get the ring because they didn’t act like they loved her, while my son did. The note instructed my son to give the ring to his wife.

I have not shown the note to my sister because I know she will be upset. I want to give the ring to my son. I know my sister will see the ring on my daughter-in-law’s finger and know it was my mom’s. My sister will wonder how she got

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the ring. What should I do?

HURT IN OHIO

DEAR HURT: Do not approach your sister with this information until you have spoken to an attorney. Show him or her the will you found in your mother’s apartment and the note that was with it. If your mom is able, have the ring details added to the will. In order to avoid any misunderstandings and a possible rift in the family, your sister should be given a copy of both. After that, take your lead from the attorney.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

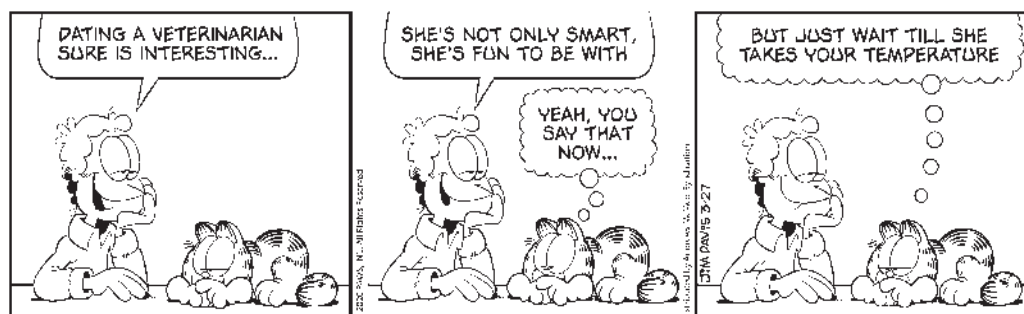
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

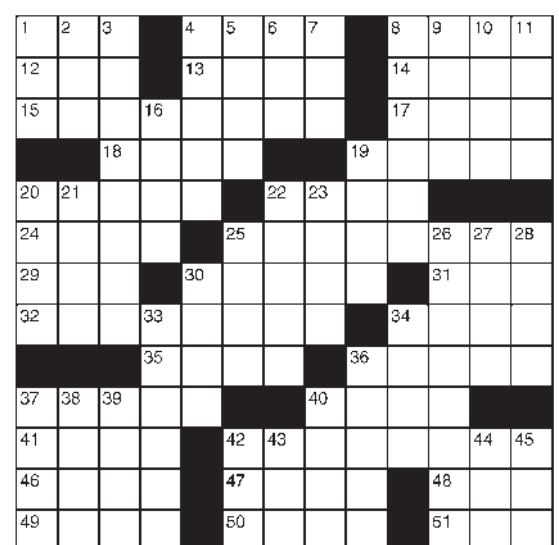
1 Guest's bed
4 Floor cleaners
8 Feng — stick
12 Fiddle
13 "East of Eden" girl
14 Poker holding
15 Played a bar game
17 Writer
18 Scrabble piece
19 Triangular letter
20 Skirt style
22 Quarrel
24 — Martin (cognac)
25 Cabana site
29 Leading lady?
30 Lincoln's coin
31 Petty peeve
32 Like some glances
34 Russian ruler

DOWN

1 "Blue Bloods" network
2 Sound of delight
3 Cheated on
4 Syrup flavor
5 Reed instrument
6 Expert
7 Bando of baseball
8 Bed linens
9 Corridor
10 Squad
11 Notion
16 Wee
19 Emmy-winning
20 War god
21 Jeans maker
22 Boxer
23 Ping- —
25 Drudge
26 Perceptions
27 Actress
28 To be, in
30 Conspir-
33 Flee
34 Till bills
36 Tea sweetener
37 Reddish brown
38 Perry's creator
39 — were (so to speak)
40 Patella site
42 Vinyl records
43 Flamenco cry
44 Mouths (Lat.)
45 Singer

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-27



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fergie, 45; Nathan Fillion, 49; Mariah Carey, 50; Pauley Perrette, 51.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, consider the consequence of your actions and plan every move you want to make this year with precision, detail and foresight. Hold your cards close to your chest, and don't reveal your plans until you know you have left nothing to chance. Impetuous behavior will lead to unnecessary mistakes. A strategy will count this year. Your numbers are 7, 19, 23, 29, 35, 41, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Treat partnerships with care. Take measures to chill out and avoid letting frustration and anxiety lead to an argument. Do something you feel passionate about, or focus on a creative pursuit that will ease stress. Overreacting will lead to regret. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take your time. An impulsive move will set you back, but a well-thought-out plan executed with precision and detail will catapult you in a direction that will bring positive benefits. Work on honing your skills and advancing your position. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't get upset if someone makes an inconvenient last-minute change. Adjust and keep moving forward. Your ability to adapt will help you gain respect as well as rewards for your patience and insight. Follow your heart, and refrain from overreacting. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't compromise your life. Recognize the difference between love and friendship.

Find out what someone expects from you before you become too attached. You may not like change, but if something isn't working, don't linger over what needs doing. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A personal change will limit you. Keep the peace, and try not to initiate something that could backfire on you. Go back to the drawing board, and rethink your plans. What you come up with will lead to a better lifestyle. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A personal revelation will help you recognize what you want and how best to initiate your plans. Don't be afraid to invest in something that has potential. Invest in what you have to offer, and your options will grow. Romance is favored. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be lethargic when there is so much to do, see and learn. Satisfy your curiosity, and try something new. The possibilities are endless if you find something that motivates and inspires you. Hard work will pay off. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Leap forward, and leave the past behind. Revenge and regret are wastes of time. Free your mind and engage in the things that promote creativity, not something that makes you fearful. Positive thoughts will alter the way you live. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opposition will pop up if you stretch the truth. If you want to get ahead or get along with others, you'll have to be more attentive and willing to compromise. Keep the peace, and offer others a comfortable and stress-free environment. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do what's best for you. Spend time with someone who brings out the best in you and makes you laugh. A change at home or to the way you live will enhance your personal life and encourage peace of mind. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pick up knowledge or skills that will help you get ahead. Refuse to let anyone make decisions for you or set you back financially. Put a plan in place, and don't stop until you reach your destination. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make a to-do list, and get started. Revisit old ideas, and search for a way to fulfill your dreams. Fleshing out your plans with someone you look up to will bring a new dimension to your original method. Romance is in the stars. *****

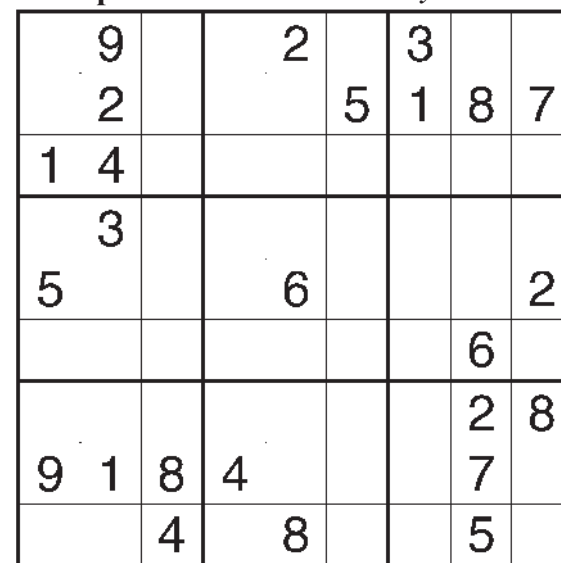
Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, detailed and energetic. You are sentimental and dedicated.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



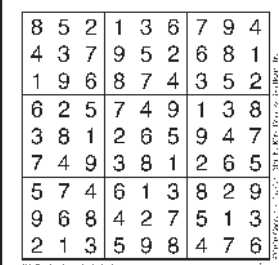
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/27

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

NAMES OF CRUISE SHIPS

Solution: 10 letters

S E A S E V X T E A I S E O P
Y S M A R Y O O I D X P C V A
N O E E C M L Y N R I A L A R
O N P C H E A A A I I R I T A
M E R E N T L E T G U P P I D
R U Q E R I N C R S E Q S O I
A L U B N A R A D Y I E N S
H B E U I N P D R S R A B E
O C E A N D R M D A I R C Y S
L L N T E I E A O N W M A T Y
L A I U V O G R M U O N P R E
A Y R I A F E I U C N M T E N
N O E D G E N N S L S E A B S
D R O L A V T A N C L G I I I
A G A S R O T A G I V A N L D

© 2000 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

3/27

Allure, Anthem, Bars, Bluenose, Boat, Captain, Crystal, Cunard, Dawn, Diamond, Disney, Dream, Eclipse, Edge, Equinox, Fair, Gem, Grandeur, Harmony, Holland, Liberty, Marina, Mariner, Mary, Miracle, MSC, Navigator, NCL, Oasis, Ocean, Opera, Ovation, Paradise, Poesia, Pride, Princess, Queen, Regent, Riviera, Royal, Saga, Seas, Spa, Spirit, Valor, Voyage

Yesterday's Answer: Kilts

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

MLBers open to 7-inning doubleheaders



TORONTO
(AP)—If Major League

Baseball needs to squeeze more games into a condensed season without exhausting pitching staffs, perhaps this idea could get tossed into play: seven-inning doubleheaders.

“Maybe that’s something we have to consider,” Toronto Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins said on a conference call Wednesday.

Opening day has been postponed until at least mid-May because of the new coronavirus pandemic. The regular season had been scheduled to begin Thursday.

Minor league teams and college teams typically play seven innings in each game of a doubleheader. But twinbills are rarely planned in the majors—only a handful were originally scheduled over the last decade.

The final total of big league doubleheaders, most of them caused by makeup games, ranged from a low of 14 in 2014 to a high of 34 in both 2011 and 2018, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Colorado Rockies manager Bud Black said last week that frequent doubleheaders might be necessary to help fit more games into a shorter window.

New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said he would be open to considering seven-inning games in doubleheaders. He said averaging eight or nine games a week would require a couple more roster spots above the current 26, with at least 14 pitchers.

Extending play into November could lead to neutral-site games in warm weather cities and ballparks with roofs.

“It is an opportunity probably to be creative or to try



Guaranteed Rate Field, home of the Chicago White Sox, is seen with empty parking lots in Chicago, Wednesday, March 25, 2020. There will be empty ballparks on what was supposed to be Major League Baseball's opening day.

ballparks will be empty Thursday on what was supposed to be opening day.

“You’re used to seeing people run all over the place. We have over 200 people (who work) at the park,” said Roger Bossard, the groundskeeper in his 54th year with the Chicago White Sox. “Certainly, it’s eerie when no one’s around. You walk around the hallways or underneath the stands there, and there’s nobody there—but understandably.”

From Baltimore to Miami in the east, San Diego to Seattle in the west—and 11 other cities that would have hosted season openers Thursday—there will be no games, or at the remaining 15 MLB stadiums, for at least a couple of more months.

By then, when the weather will be warmer, the Rangers will be able to stay out of the heat by closing the retractable roof at their \$1 billion-plus stadium, the only new major league ballpark opening this season.

After the postponement of a Chris Stapleton concert that was to be the inaugural event at Globe Life Park on March 14, only three days after an open house that went on as scheduled, the Rangers were supposed to play an exhibition game there this week. Their home opener was set for next Tuesday after a season-opening series in Seattle.

some things that people think could stick a little bit or could be kind of a segue to something different down the line,” Boone said on a conference call Wednesday. “But it’s certainly probably an opportunity to try some things that you wouldn’t otherwise try in a normal 162-game setting where everything’s kind of going off according to plan.”

The math: By averaging nine games a week, a team could play 162 games in 18 weeks, eight fewer than usual. That means MLB could start as late as July and play a full schedule by extending the regular season through October.

Atkins pitched in Cleveland’s minor league system for five seasons before becoming that team’s assistant director of player development. He

was hired as Toronto’s GM in December 2015.

Asked what he saw as potential solutions to scheduling issues, Atkins mentioned shorter games in doubleheaders. Still, he isn’t entirely sold on the idea of seven-inning games.

“You’re not playing the game that is written in the rulebooks,” he said. “It’s not the regulation game, it’s a different game. Bullpens and teams are built in a way to play nine innings. I’m sure there are people that would challenge that and I’m not so sure it’s something we should do.”

No matter how many innings get played, the likelihood of a condensed schedule will require greater roster flexibility once baseball resumes, Atkins said.

“If you’re playing multiple doubleheaders, and suppose they are nine innings each, the demands on a pitching staff would be extremely significant,” he said.

Atkins declined to say how many games he thinks would be necessary this season, acknowledging the complexity of the issue.

“Decreasing the number of games isn’t just about record books,” he said. “It’s more complicated than that because of compensation reasons, because of how rosters were built and the resources that were poured into the planning to get where we are today.”

“It’s not just as simple as ‘OK, we have this number of days, let’s play this number of games and call it a year,’” he said.

Atkins said baseball must

take a collaborative approach to finding solutions to scheduling problems.

Ballparks will remain eerily empty on ‘opening day’

Meanwhile, there will be no hot dogs on the grill, no beer on tap, no vendors in the stands selling peanuts and Cracker Jack.

The shiny new stadium deep in the heart of Texas will still be waiting for its first Rangers game. Instead of warming up for his debut with the New York Yankees after a record \$324 million, nine-year contract, Gerrit Cole is playing catch with his wife at home.

With the start of the Major League Baseball season indefinitely on hold because of the novel coronavirus pandemic,



GET

\$100

TRADE-IN VALUE FOR YOUR OLD PHONE



TRADE IN!

See Store for Rental Rates

*This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: \$9.95 x 12 months=\$517.40. Some restrictions apply, see store for details.

NO CREDIT NEEDED

Chalan Kanoa 234-DIAL | Middle Road 234-RENT

Rent-to-Own

MLBers open to 7-inning doubleheaders



TORONTO
(AP)—If Major League

Baseball needs to squeeze more games into a condensed season without exhausting pitching staffs, perhaps this idea could get tossed into play: seven-inning doubleheaders.

“Maybe that’s something we have to consider,” Toronto Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins said on a conference call Wednesday.

Opening day has been postponed until at least mid-May because of the new coronavirus pandemic. The regular season had been scheduled to begin Thursday.

Minor league teams and college teams typically play seven innings in each game of a doubleheader. But twin-bills are rarely planned in the majors -- only a handful were originally scheduled over the last decade.

The final total of big league doubleheaders, most of them caused by makeup games, ranged from a low of 14 in 2014 to a high of 34 in both 2011 and 2018, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Colorado Rockies manager Bud Black said last week that frequent doubleheaders might be necessary to help fit more games into a shorter window.

New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said he would be open to considering seven-inning games in doubleheaders. He said averaging eight or nine games a week would require a couple more roster spots above the current 26, with at least 14 pitchers.



Guaranteed Rate Field, home of the Chicago White Sox, is seen with empty parking lots in Chicago, Wednesday, March 25, 2020. There will be empty ballparks on what was supposed to be Major League Baseball's opening day.

Extending play into November could lead to neutral-site games in warm weather cities and ballparks with roofs.

“It is an opportunity probably to be creative or to try some things that people think could stick a little bit or could be kind of a segue to something different down the line,” Boone said on a conference call Wednesday. “But it’s certainly probably an opportunity to try some things that you wouldn’t otherwise try in a normal 162-game setting

where everything’s kind of going off according to plan.”

The math: By averaging nine games a week, a team could play 162 games in 18 weeks, eight fewer than usual. That means MLB could start as late as July and play a full schedule by extending the regular season through October.

Atkins pitched in Cleveland’s minor league system for five seasons before becoming that team’s assistant director of player development. He was hired as Toronto’s GM in

December 2015.

Asked what he saw as potential solutions to scheduling issues, Atkins mentioned shorter games in doubleheaders. Still, he isn’t entirely sold on the idea of seven-inning games.

“You’re not playing the game that is written in the rulebooks,” he said. “It’s not the regulation game, it’s a different game. Bullpens and teams are built in a way to play nine innings. I’m sure there are people that would chal-

lenge that and I’m not so sure it’s something we should do.”

No matter how many innings get played, the likelihood of a condensed schedule will require greater roster flexibility once baseball resumes, Atkins said.

“If you’re playing multiple doubleheaders, and suppose they are nine innings each, the demands on a pitching staff would be extremely significant,” he said.

Atkins declined to say how many games he thinks would be necessary this season, acknowledging the complexity of the issue.

“Decreasing the number of games isn’t just about record books,” he said. “It’s more complicated than that because of compensation reasons, because of how rosters were built and the resources that were poured into the planning to get where we are today.

“It’s not just as simple as ‘OK, we have this number of days, let’s play this number of games and call it a year,’” he said.

Atkins said baseball must take a collaborative approach to finding solutions to scheduling problems.

Ballparks will remain eerily empty on ‘opening day’

Meanwhile, there will be no hot dogs on the grill, no beer on tap, no vendors in the stands selling peanuts and Cracker Jack.

The shiny new stadium deep in the heart of Texas will still be waiting for its first Rangers game. Instead of warming up for his debut with the New York Yankees after a record

\$324 million, nine-year contract, Gerrit Cole is playing catch with his wife at home.

With the start of the Major League Baseball season indefinitely on hold because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, ballparks will be empty Thursday on what was supposed to be opening day.

“You’re used to seeing people run all over the place. We have over 200 people (who work) at the park,” said Roger Bossard, the groundskeeper in his 54th year with the Chicago White Sox. “Certainly, it’s eerie when no one’s around. You walk around the hallways or underneath the stands there, and there’s nobody there—but understandably.”

From Baltimore to Miami in the east, San Diego to Seattle in the west—and 11 other cities that would have hosted season openers Thursday—there will be no games, or at the remaining 15 MLB stadiums, for at least a couple of more months.

By then, when the weather will be warmer, the Rangers will be able to stay out of the heat by closing the retractable roof at their \$1 billion-plus stadium, the only new major league ballpark opening this season.

After the postponement of a Chris Stapleton concert that was to be the inaugural event at Globe Life Park on March 14, only three days after an open house that went on as scheduled, the Rangers were supposed to play an exhibition game there this week. Their home opener was set for next Tuesday after a season-opening series in Seattle.

Proposal would let Betts, Bauer go free in fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Mookie Betts and all the players set to be free agents after the 2020 season would still get that chance if there is no baseball this year, part of a broad deal being negotiated by the commissioner’s office and the players’ association.

If there’s no season because of the new coronavirus, the agreement would credit major leaguers with the same service time this year that they earned in 2019, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were ongoing.

Trevor Bauer, Marcus Stroman, George Springer, JT Realmuto also would be eligible for free agency, even if the season is canceled.

Betts, the 2018 AL MVP, was acquired by the Dodgers from Boston last month for outfielder Alex Verdugo and two prospects. In a pair of deals at last July’s trade

deadline contemplating they would get a top pitcher for 1 1/3 seasons, Cincinnati obtained Bauer from Cleveland and the Mets received Stroman from Toronto.

Service time affects a player’s status for free agency, salary arbitration and the pension plan. The likely service time agreement was first reported by The Athletic.

Major League Baseball and the union would agree to try to play as many regular season games as possible, the person said. They also would agree to explore one-time changes to the postseason, which would create the possibility of expanded playoffs this year.

They would consider multiple schedule options that would take into account player health and safety, economics and ballpark availability. Possible changes might include increased doubleheaders, extending the regular season into October and even November and using neutral sites

with warm weather and roofs if needed for the postseason.

“A World Series week would allow for a great trial to open up an avenue of sponsorship,” said agent Scott Boras, a longtime proponent of a neutral-site World Series. “It would give players the ability to be in one place for seven games and lessen the travel after what is going to be a very difficult schedule to get to the World Series.”

If less than a full regular season takes place, a player would receive only a proportional share of his salary.

Management would have the right to delay the amateur draft from its scheduled June 10 start and to shorten it from its current 40 rounds. Teams also could push back the start of the international amateur signing period, which usually is July 2.

As part of a deal, management would advance money that would be given to players on the lower-end of the

salary scale.

Opening day was scheduled for Thursday but has been pushed back to mid-May at the earliest due to the new coronavirus. A full service year usually is 172 days, and the season was set to be 186 days long. No matter how many games are played this season, a player on the active roster or injured list for the entire season would receive a full season of service.

Meanwhile, injured New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge still has not resumed baseball activities.

The Yankees said March 6 that he had a stress fracture to his first right rib, an injury likely dating from a diving catch late last season.

“Aaron is still in the healing phase of that that rib bone, and I think he’ll be reevaluated again in a few weeks as far as re-imaging that to see if there’s the continued healing with that rib,” manager Aaron Boone said.

Brady over Winston easy decision for Bucs



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The decision to pursue Tom Brady in free agency was a no-brainer for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

That's not to suggest a lot of thinking and planning didn't go into it.

In snaring the six-time Super Bowl winner, who signed a two-year, \$50 million contract that's fully guaranteed, the Bucs also pulled the plug on trying to develop a talented and much younger Jameis Winston into a championship quarterback.

The first overall pick from the 2015 draft, the 26-year-old Winston has been wildly inconsistent over the first five seasons of his career. There were flashes of brilliance on the way to becoming Tampa Bay's all-time leading passer, but also a league-leading 111 turnovers that hindered the team's prospects for success.

Brady, who'll turn 43 in August, has been one of the best ever at protecting the ball, leading the Patriots to nine Super Bowl appearances, 13 AFC championship games and 17 division title in 20 seasons with New England.

Bucs coach Bruce Arians and general manager Jason Licht are confident Brady can still play at a high enough level to not only end Tampa Bay's 12-year playoff drought, but win another Super Bowl—or two.

"He is a Buccaneer today not for what he has done in the past, but for what we know he can accomplish here in the near future as well," Licht said. "We know that Tom is going to have a transformative effect in our locker room, and he is going to



The Tampa Bay Buccaneers pulled the plug on Jameis Winston, left, to sign champion quarterback Tom Brady.

AP

demand the best out of himself, his teammates and anybody that is around him."

Winston led the NFL with 5,107 yards passing in 2019. He also threw for 33 touchdowns and 30 interceptions to become the first 30-30 player in league history. Opponents returned a record seven interceptions for TDs last season and scored 112 points off his league-high 35 turnovers overall.

Brady has never thrown more than 14 interceptions in a season. His 1.79 career interception percentage is the second-best of all time behind Aaron Rodgers among quar-

terbacks with at least 2,500 pass attempts. He's thrown just 27 picks total while throwing for nearly 13,000 yards and 85 touchdowns the past three seasons.

Winston's interception percentage was 4.8 last season, hiking his career mark to 3.5.

Brady's .774 regular season winning percentage ranks first in the Super Bowl era among quarterbacks with at least 50 starts. With 249 victories overall, including playoffs, he's won almost as many games in two decades as the Bucs have won (273) in the franchise's 44-season history.

Winston topped 4,000 yards

passing in three of his five seasons in Tampa Bay, but that didn't translate to team success. He was 28-42 as a starter and produced just one winning record, 9-7 in 2016, which wasn't good enough to make the playoffs.

"When we looked at everybody that might be available at the quarterback position, obviously really never dreaming that Tom would be available, but if he was, he was going to be our No. 1 choice," Arians said.

The surest path to the playoffs is a division championship. The Bucs have finished last in the NFC South eight of

the past 11 seasons.

Brady won the AFC East 17 of the 18 seasons in which he was New England's primary starter, including the past 11 years.

Winston struggled to establish himself in a quarterback-driven division featuring Drew Brees in New Orleans, Matt Ryan in Atlanta and Cam Newton in Carolina—all of whom have been to Super Bowls. Brady is looking forward to getting better acquainted with the Saints, Falcons and Panthers.

"Winning the division is always the hard thing to do. These teams know each other

so well, and I didn't play this division but once every four years, so I've got to learn the players. I've got to learn the schemes," Brady said.

"It's going to be a busy off-season for me learning a lot of new things, which is a great challenge and a great opportunity for me. I'm just going to do it the only way I know how to do it, which is just to fully engulf myself in what is done here," Brady added. "It's a new program that I'm a part of and they have their way of doing things. They're committed to winning and I've got to come in and do my part. That's why I'm here."

TOKYO (AP)—With the Tokyo Olympics postponed until 2021, now comes the multi-billion-dollar question: Who pays the bills for the delay, and how large will they be?

The most likely answer is—primarily Japanese taxpayers.

"Of course there will be costs," organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto said when the postponement was announced. "As for how much, we have no figures with us right now. As for who will shoulder these costs? Needless to say, they are not going to be easy discussions, so we are not sure how long they will take."

The Japanese financial newspaper Nikkei put the added cost at \$2.7 billion, citing an estimate from local organizers.

Tokyo organizers will have to renegotiate new leases on venues, pay for maintenance at arenas, and maybe find different fields of play. They will

Olympics delay: Who pays bills for another year?

also have to deal with real estate developers who are already selling off thousands of apartments at what will be the Athletes Village. The organizing committee also employs 3,500 staff members, and some may lose their jobs to cost cutting.

Tokyo, driven by advertising giant Dentsu Inc., has sold \$3.3 billion in local sponsorships, more than twice any previous Olympics. Those brands will be clamoring to know what they get for their money. Refunds? Make-good deals? New contracts?

And nothing much can be done until new dates are set to replace what was to be this year's Olympics: July 24 through Aug. 9, 2020.

"The general target is summer of next year," said Yoshiro Mori, president of the organizing committee and a former

Japanese Prime Minister. "We have to go through scheduling, international events. Many things will have to be adjusted before we come up with a certain time frame."

Of course, all of the rescheduling problems are compounded by the uncertain spread of the virus and the recent downturn in the economy.

Muto acknowledged tough talks are ahead with the International Olympic Committee, which controls the games but leaves the host country to pick up most of the costs.

First, some Tokyo Olympic financing basics.

Local organizers and Japanese government bodies say they are spending \$12.6 billion to put on the Olympics. However, a national government audit report in December put costs at \$28 billion. There

is always debate about what are—and are not—Olympic costs, and creative accounting is not unknown.

When Tokyo won the Olympic bid in 2013, it said the total cost would be \$7.3 billion.

Private-sector money makes up \$5.6 billion of today's total budget. The rest -- whatever the grand total—is public money.

Tokyo has spent almost \$7 billion on temporary and permanent venues -- about 85% from public funds. The most expensive venue is the new national stadium, a national government project billed at \$1.43 billion.

For its part, the Switzerland-based IOC has contributed \$1.3 billion to finance the Tokyo Olympics, a small fraction of the total cost. The IOC had income of \$5.7 billion for the last

four-year Olympic cycle (2013-2016). Almost three-quarters of the income is from selling broadcasting rights, with another 18% from sponsors.

The IOC also has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion, and insurance to cover losses.

Bent Flyvbjerg, an author of "The Oxford Olympics Study 2016: Cost and Cost Overrun at the Games," in an email to the Associated Press, said the IOC should share more of the costs and termed it a "monopoly." The study found the Olympics have the "highest average cost overrun of any type of mega-project."

Flyvbjerg said the IOC should "pick up a larger part of the bill for the games, which the IOC profits from. Tokyo and Japan will pick up the added cost, unless the IOC makes an exception and expands the reserve fund, which

is what the IOC should do from an ethics point of view."

Tokyo was planning to use 42 venues for 33 sports. One extra venue was planned for the Paralympics. Muto said it was not clear how many venues would be available a year from now.

"Some venues we might have to keep renting until next year," he said. "Because at some venues it takes about a year to get them ready. We can't take them down and then set them up again for the Olympics. That also means added costs."

The biggest headache could be the Athletes Village, which is to house 11,000 Olympians and staff, and 4,400 Paralympians and staff. The sprawling site on Tokyo Bay—5,632 apartments—is to be sold off after the Olympics and reports say one-quarter have already been sold. Some cost more than \$1 million.



Olympic postponement may help or hurt Tiger



NEW YORK—Unlike other sports where athletes had already qualified, golf was not thrown into any significant chaos when the Olympics were postponed until 2021 because of the new coronavirus.

Eligibility for each country is determined by the world ranking about a month before the start of competition. The ranking was frozen during the shutdown in golf, and one can only speculate when the sport will resume.

Justin Thomas said he was “bummed” to hear about the postponement, though he understood and said it was the right decision.

“Whenever it’s played, it’ll be great and I hope I’m a part of the team,” Thomas said in a text message Tuesday.

Antony Scanlon, executive director of the International Golf Federation, said from

his home in Switzerland the news was too fresh to determine the next step. It’s likely that whenever the Olympics are scheduled, the cutoff for the world ranking will be set accordingly.

The question going forward is which players it helps or hurts.

And that starts with Tiger Woods, whom Olympic organizers would love to see in Tokyo chasing a gold medal.

Woods was No. 4 among Americans going into the year (as many as four players from a country are eligible if all are in the top 15) but has slipped to No. 6 after playing only twice this year. He has said his back wasn’t ready to play in Mexico City and at Bay Hill and The Players. And now there’s no golf for at least two months.

That wouldn’t have helped his chances. Now he gets another year. He’ll also be another year older, 45, and Woods

already is starting to reduce his schedule.

Brooks Koepka was leaning against the Olympics because of the slow start to his season brought on by injury. Now he might rethink the schedule depending on where the Olympics fall in 2021. Dustin Johnson indicated even before COVID-19 became a pandemic that the Olympics would make it difficult for him to be ready for the FedEx Cup.

For the women, it could be a bonus for Inbee Park, the defending gold medalist.

Currently, Park would be the first reserve among the South Korean powerhouse team. She added to her schedule at the start of the year to improve her ranking and now gets more time. Albane Valenzuela of Switzerland, who turned pro late last year after a decorated career at Stanford, currently holds the final



In this February 16, 2020 file photo, Tiger Woods lines up a putt on 7th hole during the final round of The Genesis Invitational golf tournament at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, CA.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has issued an executive order that resulted in the indefinite closing of Winged Foot Golf Club, the USGA continues to plan for a June U.S. Open.

In a statement to GolfChannel.com, the USGA continues “to hold the dates for the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in June and monitor all available guidance and regulations from the CDC, WHO and other federal, state and local authorities to do what is in the best interests of the community for the health and safety of all those involved.”

According to Golfweek, preparations had been underway at Winged Foot until last week when work was halted. No grandstands had been built and only essential personnel are now allowed on the course.

May’s Charles Schwab Challenge still slated to be next PGA Tour event

SBA 8-Ball League on hold

The SBA Budweiser Open 8-ball League 2020 has been suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The league, which was originally scheduled to kick off last March 10, has two division competitions: the Tuesday and Thursday divisions.

Six teams are entered in the Tuesday Division with MJD Marianas Water on the draw and will battle Amari’s Hustlers, Amari’s Ball Breakers, Amari’s IT&E Destroyers,

Bamboo Club 88 Str8Ball, and 9-Eleven DECM Wizards.

MJD Marianas Water was initially slated to have its season debut against 9-Eleven DECM Wizards, while the two other pairings were Amari’s Ball Breakers over Amari’s IT&E Destroyers and Bamboo Club 88 Str8Ball opposite Amari’s Hustlers.

The six teams will play for 16 weeks with the final one set for June 16, but a new schedule will be out once

it’s safe to go ahead with the matches.

In the Thursday Division B, seven team are competing: 9-Eleven DECM Wizards, Bamboo Club 88 BlackB, MJD Tres Maria’s, Amari’s Homeboyz, Amari’s Ball Shooters, VFW Assassins, and Sands Team SCS.

Games in the Thursday Division are scheduled for 28 weeks with the last set initially set for Sept. 24. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**



TINIAN

From Page 24

ers’ fitness level, saying that though they did not see action in any regular season games, the Stallions never stopped training and are in good shape since last summer when they won the Pacific Amusement/NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

“It was a very long tournament with teams playing multiple games in one day. It’s good that our players are physically ready for the tough schedule,” Keith said.

Tinian made it to the finals first after beating Mt. Carmel in the second round of the winners bracket, while the Knights advanced after playing several knockout matches in the losers’ draw with less than an hour of rest in between. Game 1 of the finals was played about 30 minutes after the last semis game, while Game 2 took place 25 minutes after the opener concluded.

“Despite beating Mt. Car-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tinian Junior Senior High School’s Tyler Santos, second left, beats Mt. Carmel School’s Jeremiah Diaz in the rebound play in Game 2 of their title showdown in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League earlier this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

mel the first time we met, there was no time to celebrate because we knew that the next games will be much harder. We had to limit Mt. Carmel’s

shooters to beat them again and be physically and mentally ready for the tough grind in the finals. I am glad we came through it all,” Keith said.

spot in the women’s field. She qualified for the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016 as an amateur.

“This was one of the reasons I decided to turn professional. I knew that it would be hard to qualify, but that if I played in enough tournaments, and made some cuts, I would have

a fair chance,” Valenzuela told GolfChannel.com.

The rest of the outcome is based on form, always fickle in golf.

USGA still hoping for June US Open

Despite news that New York

WARRIOR

From Page 24

“Fasi was always a mild-mannered, soft-spoken, very respectful, and quiet guy. He got along with everyone and was always focused and disciplined at work and in training,” said Trench Tech co-founder and owner Cuki Alvarez, who took Jesse under his wing when the latter showed interest in MMA in the early 2000s.

“Fasi used to work as a beach boy and I have known Fasi way before he joined our gym. I was a parasailing captain at Advanced Marine Sports and Fasi at one time was my co-worker. He worked on small boats as a deck hand. In 2007, he asked if he can join our team and I immediately said yes! He was always a hard worker and I just knew his hard work ethic would easily translate into his MMA fight training. He was also very naturally athletic and played basketball in the local leagues in the early 2000s,” said Alvarez, adding that his former business partner, Randy Taylor, was the one who gave the nickname to Jesse.

The Pohnpei-born athlete had his MMA pro debut on Aug. 2008 via Gorilla Warfare 1: Predator or Prey and won via split decision against Nate Flores. Jesse went on to prevail in his first five bouts before ending the streak on Dec. 18, 2009 when he lost (submission) to Guam’s Alex Castro in

Trench Warz 11: Redemption.

Based on sherdog.com records, Jesse had 13 fights and earned a 9-4 record, winning his last two assignments before calling it a career in 2012 where he defeated Guam’s Ryan Toves (arm-bar submission at the 2:59 mark of the Round 1) in Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable. Out of those victories, Alvarez would always remember that one against California’s Will “The Kill” Chope in the ROP 10: Bad Intentions on March 11, 2011.

“He fought a 6’4” tall pro fighter from the states who lived and trained MMA professionally in Thailand. His height was always a factor in all his fights. Fasi actually was able to head kick him, take him down, and submit him and got the victory in front of his hometown crowd. It was then when he became a local MMA superstar and that fight opened the eyes of scouts from the PXC. So in a sense, that fight catapulted his career,” Alvarez said.

Sportsman

Jesse may have developed a reputation as an MMA fighter, making him a big threat to every opponent, but his demeanor on the eight sides was even more noticeable.

“We fought a fun fight and had some awesome memories after. He was a great fighter and a respectful one. A true island warrior,” said Guam’s Robert Wusstig in his Facebook post.

Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan), who watched several MMA fights, including those that featured Jesse, remembered a fighter who let his game do the talking every bout.

“Always a true sportsman during his bouts. You would never see Fasi trash talk or disrespect his opponents,” Sablan said.

Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), who was the ring announcer in Trench Tech-organized events, also had high praises on the late Jesse.

“I first met Fasi when I got on board as Trench Tech’s ring announcer. From the moment he stepped into the cage, I was impressed by how he performed from bell to bell. His speed and endurance were the stuff most fighters wish they had. And he was by far, one of my favorite fighters to call into the ring. As intimidating as he could be when he was your opponent, Fasi was one of the kindest, most genuine people you’d ever come across. He was very humble and a guy who was true definition of a sportsman,” Castro said.

Castro once worked on Jesse’s corner in an off-island event and recalled how the MMA veteran opted to sleep on the floor of their hotel room.

“The room they gave us was enough to a fit all of us with a bed of our own. But, being a true island boy he slept on the floor. I believe according to Cuki, he said the carpet was more comfortable than the bed,” Castro said.



MLBers open to 7-inning doubleheaders

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

Brady over Winston easy decision for Bucs

PAGE 22



Tinian: Play, adjust, win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Junior Senior High School played the game of adjustments well to rule the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League.



The Stallions ended their six-season title drought, as they edged regular season top finisher Mt. Carmel School in the Game 2 rubber, 38-36, earlier this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Mt. Carmel swept the round-robin preliminaries for an impressive 11-0 record and the top seed going into the double-elimination playoffs that took place last March 13 to 14. Tinian, on the other hand, automatically got the middle seeding—No. 5—as the Stallions could not travel to Saipan on a regular basis to play in the elimination round matches.

“We came into the playoffs

without having the opportunity to scout the teams,” said Keith Nabors, who along with his brother, Karl, volunteered to call the shots for the champion squad.

Not knowing how the Knights and the other teams in the tournament play, the Stallions took what their opponents threw at them and then counter-attacked.

“When we faced a slow team, we adjusted our game and pushed the ball hard. When we saw the other team fielding small players on the court, we instructed our big guys to go inside and do their thing,” said Keith, who was also the Stallions coach when they won the boys high school tournament in 2012 and 2013.

In the 2019-2020 finale against the Knights, Tinian had the advantage in ceiling and Leo Epity and Tyler Santos capitalized, as they gave the Stallions a lot of second, third, and even fourth opportunities to score while toying around the boxing out abilities of Mt. Carmel’s much smaller frontliners.

Out of those many battles in the paint, the biggest one came in the homestretch of the deciding Game 2 with Sir Dela Cruz leaping over the back of Mt. Carmel’s Steve King and getting the offensive board. Dela Cruz went on to hit the dagger after the rebound.

Meanwhile, Keith commended his players for buying into the system, working on every adjustment they were making in the game, and executing almost every instructions he and his brother gave the Stallions.

“Whether we told them to work on their offense or defense, they were focused on getting the job done,” said Keith.

The long-time Stallions coach also boasted the play-

See TINIAN on Page 23

‘Quikdraw’ true island warrior

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Mixed Martial Arts veteran Fasi Jesse’s hands were fast and like guns they were considered a deadly weapon thus the nickname “Quikdraw.” But more than his trademark fighting skills, Jesse is best remembered for showing respect to the sport and his opponents on the eight sides.

News on Jesse’s passing in Hawaii due to cancer broke yesterday, bringing back memories of his impressive performances in the octagon cage and how his attitude had endeared him to local MMA fans.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fasi “Quikdraw” Jesse, standing right, joins participants in the Art of War grappling tournament for a group photo during the awards ceremony at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this Sept. 19, 2009 file photo, a true gentleman, Fasi “Quikdraw” Jesse, second right, gestures to Brian “Shotgun” Howard after winning their bout in PXC 18: Dead Game 2 in Guam.